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AN ECHO.

BY FRANK M. IMBRIE.

Neath the wide-spreading arms of an old shade tree I rested, a-weary, my mind roving free, Methought I would woo a fair sprite of the wood, And trust to its magic to soothe my sad mood. I said, "In this beautiful world so bright, Why walk we in gloom through its marvelous light; What's lacking of pleasure our spirits to cheer? Where can happiness be, if we find it not here?" The wild eldritch echo responded: "Not here."

"Dear eyes have grown heavy with wearisom

cares,
'Loved forms are gone,' say the old vacant chairs;
We crossed their pale hands on the poor pulseless
breast,
While the Comforter whispered, 'A soul is at rest;'
In our hearts, joy-deserted, we folded the pall,
And the cypress hangs fadeless on Memory's wall.
'Tis a sweet peace to know when life is so dreary,
That in the new life, they never grow weary;''
Firmly the echo spoke, "Never grow weary."

"They tell us, so oft, of that jasper-gemmed shore, we reach by the dip of the mystical oar; The gold-paved streets of the vailed 'afar,' Enraptured we'll see through the gates ajar; we will neet again with our loved and lost, Whom we left at the edge, when their life-boat crossed; They wait for us on the shining stair; Oh, tell us, is bliss unalloyed, over there?" Friled with sweet peace came the words, "Over there."

Hercules, **≡** Hunchback:

The Fire-Fiends of Chicago. A REVELATION OF THE GREAT CONFLAGRATION.

BY A. P. MORRIS, JR. AUTHOR OF "FLAMING TALISMAN," "HOODWINKED,"
"BLACK CRESCENT," "BLACK HAND," ETC.

CHAPTER X.

AFTER AN ENEMY. HEMMED in on every side by the licking fires that spat upon them as if with a devil-ish glee; weakened of heart by the demoniac voice that issued through the flames above; nigh filled with despair at finding the door
—their only hope—fastened, Hercules
groaned aloud and in spirit, and, setting
Mortimer Gascon on his feet, he pressed
his burned and blistered hands to his throb-

bing temples.
The heat was terrible. Denser with the lapse of every second closed the seething walls around them; death seemed inevitable. But the indomitable nature of the Hunch-

back was not yet conquered.
"Courage!" he hissed, with a stifled breath. "Courage, Mortimer Gascon; we are not dead yet—God! how hot! Bear up! Bear up!"
Stripping the coat from his back, he threw

"Wrap your face tightly!" he managed to articulate; "pull it close, for your life!" Then, as if gifted with a fresh energy, he drew off a pace or two—suddenly casting

himself, with a battering plunge, against the The panel cracked. Again and again he

threw himself forward, his dwarfed, yet Herculean form, striking the door with an

Presently, the panel yawned. Round the small opening clinched those fingers of iron, with muscles of steel and giant strength. Crack! Crack! gave the stuff in his maddened grip.

And there was another crackling sound, a sound as of a dull explosion mingled with the strain of weighty timbers.
"The roof!" moaned Gascon. "It is falling in! The walls are tottering?"

Hercules uttered a sharp, yelping cry, and tugged and wrenched at the opening with a

"Stand fast!" he gasped.

He hurled himself through at last; then turned to his companion and dragged the weak form after him.

By a miracle, the back of the house was not yet consumed in the raging element; an avenue of escape—though dangerous—lay open; and panting in the heated atmosphere, the dwarf once more took him in his arms, and staggered away.

None too soon. With a roaring crash

like rattling musketry, the building fell, shooting a tower of cindered flame high into the air, and rolling a cloud of sparks on! on! in the hurtling gale, to aid the Fire Fiend at his hellish work.

At the same moment Hercules effected his escape at the rear of the burning building. There was a loud jingle of breaking glass at the front as the Indian boy, Trix, cast himself out of one of the second-story win-

It was like the apparition of a demon, as he shot from the glowing mass, and de-scended with terrific velocity to the street

But he struck without so much as spraining an ankle, and, uttering a shrill scream, darted off, with clothes ablaze, and swing-

ing his arms wildly.

"Thank God! we are saved!" exclaimed Gascon, as he and the dwarf got further and further from danger.

Not saved yet, Mortimer Gascon! The

fire is close on us!—and I am weakening.
But, courage! When I cry 'enough,' then
we'll say our prayers and die!—and I shall
never cry that word!"

He was making for the house of Lu, the negress.
After a severe struggle with his overtaxed nerves, he finally reached the goal.

Recling in, as we have seen, he dropped his burden, and sunk forward on his knees,

completely exhausted.
So wild and disfigured, ay, hideous, was



"Ha! h-a-a! found! Let Delia Rivers look to herself! My hour of triumph is at hand!"

his face, that the negress did not, at first, recognize him.

But then she cried out, in amazement

"What's this?—Hurl—"
"It is what is left of him!" he broke in, half madly. "See us! we are nearly burned to ashes!"

Then, for the first time, the murmuring tunult of the night attracted her.
"What is it?" she asked. "What's all that noise about?"

that noise about?"
"Noise! Where have you been? Been asleep? Are you deaf?—blind?—that you ask me what it means? The whole city is being swept away! The earth is ablaze from end to end! Look there!" point-ing to the window. ing to the window. She hastened to glance out. A quick-

breathed exclamation escaped her as she saw the lurid glare, the hurrying people, flying panic-stricken—heard a moaning rum-ble, as if the thunders of heaven were belching hoarsely in the distance.

But, paramount in her thoughts was little Carl. She turned to the Hunchback with a

half-cry, half-wail.

"Hurl!—the boy!—the boy!"

"What mean you?" quickly. "He's gone!"
Gone!"

"They carried him off!"
"They! Who? Speak out—has any thing befallen the child?"

'I tell you he's gone!-they carried him "And I ask who 'they' are? Will you

'Jose Moreno and Miguel, his follower!"

"I tell you yes!" she screamed.
"They here? Impossible!" and he stared in astonishment.

"Yes, they are here! They've got the by! They've got Carl! They'll kill him!" Hercules was on his feet in an instant. A new strength came to him. The intel-igence appeared to rouse him to a state of frenzy, for, while his eyes fairly danced, he

"Which way? Set me on their track Be quick!—they'll murder him!"

The negress indicated the window, through which she had seen Miguel make

The dwarf sprung to the pursuit. There was a ferocious gleam in his evil eyes, and his white, regular teeth began to grit and grind till they seemed to be pulverizing.

He reached the street just as Miguel overturned the diminutive man with the

Muttering an oath of savage frame, he dashed after the Spaniard, soon leading in the race with those who would have punished Miguel for his rude treatment of

He had recognized an old enemy, a man he hated, and upon whom he had sworn to

wreak a terrible vengeance.

To Jose Moreno, and his companion, the bully, Hercules owed that ugly scar on his temple; and now, mad as a bloodhound on the scent of a doomed game, he glided at a pace of incredible swiftness—his face darkly grim, and his hands working as if they were already throughing the chieft of they were already throttling the object of

his hatred. He saw something in Miguel's armsthought it must be the child; and this lent

a double vigor to his pursuit.

Miguel ran fast. Behind him came the small man whose carpet-bag he had stolen, speeding after his property, and gaining

And on pressed Hercules, his dwarfed body appearing even smaller as he bent to the trial of wind and muscle, and flew ahead with the leaps of a race-horse.
"Go it!" vociferated the man of

the carpet-bag, as the Hunchback passed him; "catch him! He's got my clothes! Lord! how that fellow runs! Bet a dollar he's got gum elastic tied to his heels!" Hercules swept by, as if on the wings of the wind.

Soon the three men left the other parties to the scene far in their rear, and these, having more urgent affairs of their own to look after, in the excitement of flight before the conflagration, drew off.

The Spaniard was making for the tunnel, having crossed Adams street bridge.

Presently he cast a hurried glance over his shoulder. Then he paled, for he saw the form of the Hunchback, knew who it

was, and a cowardly fear seized his ruffian

"Devils of earth!" he gasped, in terror "if he once lays hold upon me, I am a dead man! How came he at my heels? And the captain has deserted me! I shall be murdered!" He put his severest bottom to the test, as he sought to escape that dreaded

enemy in his rear.

Another glance back; another weakening tremor in the limbs that he worked to

their utmost strain.
"Dios! he is gaining on me."

Faster, faster ran Miguel. But the Hunchback came whizzing on. Not all his fatigue, his torturous condition after having passed the ordeals of our pre-vious chapters, could deter him now; nor could Miguel—though he tried his best— prevent the steady closing up of the space which intervened between him and the man he had good cause to fear.

CHAPTER XI.

A PRIZE FOUND AND LOST. WHILE Evard Greville had been engaged with Jose Moreno, in the room at the rear of the house, Hermoine had returned to

But her return to life was even worse than death-at least, it was no better. The horrible operation performed by the

Hunchback—which, as part of the price de-manded for the removal of Mortimer Gascon, we know was at the instigation of Zone—had so worked upon her nerves, that the brain was shocked, and Reason forced from its throne. As she sat upright on the lounge, she

heard voices not far off, and, with an in-stinctive curiosity, followed in the direction of the sound, tiptoing stealthily, and pausing, anon, to listen.

Then there was a cessation of the dialogue; she detected the approach of some one, and shrunk back into a niche that was purposed for statuary.

A figure brushed by her, treading with a

noiseless step.

The maniac followed. As Jose passed out at the front door, it was her laugh, so wild and strange, that had startled him, and caused him to quicken his departure.

caused him to quicken his departure.

After a few moments, she caught the sound of footsteps in the hall above, and fled silently to the garden.

While Evard Greville searched for her, she was hiding in an arbor, laughing to herself as he called her name.

When he returned, after a long absence, accompanied by Zone, she was watching them from the shade of the opposite parlor—her eyes glowing like the orbs of an animal, as she gazed upon the masked girl.

But she did not betray herself—stood motionless and attentive to all that passed, and Greville's avowal of devotion seemed particularly to interest her.

ticularly to interest her.

As soon as he left the house, for the second time, she procured another key, and unlocked the parlor door—to confront one who evidently held a secret regarding her; for Zone's immediate exclamation, as the maniac faced her, discovered the fact of

this knowledge.
As Hermoine moved away, beckoning Zone to follow, the latter stood as if riveted by an irresistible magnetism, gazing vacantly at the spot where she had stood in the doorway. And in her mind trained these exclamatory thoughts:

"This is Delia Rivers!—the woman I have cause to hate with all my heart!—She

have cause to hate with all my heart! She robbed me of my rights—my all; destroyed my beauty, and sought my life! But for my mask, she might have recognized me—though she is crazy, and it has been long since we stood face to face. The last time we met— No matter. What shall I do? The record!—I must have it. But she will watch me now."

watch me now."
She raised her hand to her bosom, where it clasped the pearl hilt of a keen-edged poniard; and beneath the black mask there was a stern, resolute expression of fea-

"Let her watch me, then!" she added, half-aloud. "I'll make more disfigurement in her, if she dares too much. O-h! how I hate her!"

With a firm, yet silent step she glided

out of the parlor.
But she paused, and returned for one of the fancy lamps that stood on the mantel-piece; for the entry was dark and ominous. Then she started again, waving the light before her. Hermoine had disappeared.

Slowly she ascended the stairs. glanced into the rooms on the second floor. Every thing was still within the house. "Not here. If there is a desk, as Lu said there was, it must be in his library. Where

is the library?" She continued into the back building, occasionally pausing as she went, looking behind, to see if she was dogged.

Though she saw no one, there was a pair of burning eyes fixed upon her, a pursuing form flitted, shadow-like, beyond the reach

of the lamp-rays. Hermoine was noting her every move-Soon Zone found what she sought—the

library; and there, at one side, was a towering desk of antique finish, combined with a dusty-fronted bookcase. "Found!" fell whisperingly from her lips.

"It must be here!" Setting the lamp on a table, she turned to the desk. Drawer after drawer was drawn out, and rummaged by those red-gloved fingers; a pile of papers lay scattered around her; still she did not discover what she

wanted. Then to a row of pigeon-holes in the far interior—pulling out successively the numerous cobwebbed files, and glancing over them with excited eagerness.

And all the while, outside the door, the

maniac was intently watching her. While Zone was rapt, oblivious to all else than her search for the article so coveted, Hermoine slipped in, without so much as the

rustle of a garment.
She advanced a step, paused, leaned forward with stretched neck, to see what the other was doing—then another step, a se-cond pause, while her face wore a look part vacant, part of inquiry.

Presently, Zone uttered a half-suppressed

She had found the parchment tied with a black ribbon, sealed with a black seal.

"I have it! I have it! Now tremble, Delia Rivers! Ha! ha! ha! At last! At last the game is mine!"

With a trembling hand she broke the seal and tore open the document. Instantly a laugh of wild joy burst from her lips; and when she had mastered her excitement somewhat, she read the heading to the parehment: "Last Will and Testament of John Liste."

The other MS. was a record of some kind. "Ha! h-a-a! found! Let Delia Rivers look to herself! My triumph is at hand! She stopped short; the words died in

a quick gasp.
A light weight lay on her shoulder. Hermoine stood beside her.

As she looked up, she started back. Rapid as thought, the poniard leaped, glisten-

But Hermoine only regarded her steadily.

without moving.
"What's it all about?" asked that low, "What's it all about? asked that low, melodious voice, after a brief silence, during which space the orbs in the mask were fairly scintillating. "Tell me what you mean? You said Delia Rivers, didn't you? Let me-see-yes, I used to hear that name

somewhere. Ha! ha! ha! isn't it queer? You lost something? How did you lose it How did it come here ?-I never saw you before

A strong emotion-one fraught with bitterest sentiment toward Hermoine Greville -held Zone silent. At that moment naught but words of taunting triumph could come from her lips; her triumph was over Hermoine. To speak would be to sting the maniac; and in that case, perhaps she was not yet safe in her rejoicing, even though she held the prize in one hand, and a gleaming weapon in the other, with which to defend herself.

Hermoine frowned. "Won't you tell me? Come, you'd better. I'm queen here; and if you don't tell me, I'll have you put back into prison. When he comes, he'll condemn you, if I tell him to. He loves me, and will do whatever I ask. And I love him, too. I am not his sister; so we'll be married some day. Do sister; so we'll be married, some day. Do you love him? If I thought you did, I'd

kill you! Ha!—stop!—stop there!"

Zone had wheeled suddenly, and was about to run from the room. But the maniac was too quick for her—catching her by the dress, and, ere she could endeavor to prevent it, or deal a blow with

the sharp poniard, had snatched away the

"Ha! ha! ha!" laughed Hermoine, mockingly. "You've had your hunt for nothing. I've got your prize!—I've got it! And I'm going to find out what it all means, too! Ha! ha! ha!"

With a scream of anger, Zone sprung to-But she vanished in the darkness of the

entry, flourishing the papers aloft.

In the same moment a noise at the open window drew Zone's attention. A large shade tree grew outside, extend

ing its luxuriant branches close to the house. On one of the foliaged boughs was a man, with eyes fixed full upon her As she saw him, she uttered an exclama-

"Heaven! Can the grave give up its dead? It is Evard Greville—the true Evard Greville!"

CHAPTER XII.

THE ENCOUNTER IN THE TUNNEL. As Jose Moreno pressed onward with the fugitives that were flying through the tunnel, his dark countenance wrinkled in a smile—a devilish smile—his snaky eyes shone with a hard glitter, and his white teeth glistened between the parted lips, as he hissed those intimidating words into the he hissed those intimidating words into the ears of the frightened child:

"Be still, or I shall kill you!"

And then he muttered, jubilantly, to him-

"Oho! a prize! a prize! What will Carl Grand say when I tell him that the heir of Nelson Greville still lives? Admirable fate! So, you'll bribe Jose Moreno to aid in your plots, and then seek to rid yourself of him? Madre! what a mistake. How uncircumspect, when it was not intended that Jose should die an unnatural death! Ha! ha! a prize! But where can Miguel be? Curse the fellow! he has no brains at all, and is ever making trouble for himself. Can he- The devil!

As he vented the closing exclamation to his mutterings, he stopped short, and gazed in astonishment on a man before him. It was Evard Greville.

At that juncture there seemed to be a break in the fleeing crowd. No one was

The two men eyed each other with all the hot emotions of enmity and deep-set hate contorting their faces. Jose was first to speak.

"So," he said, sneeringly, "we are met again, Carl Grand!"
"Jose Moreno!"

"Yes, it is he—at your service for a duel to the death, if you wish it. You did not kill me, after all, most *generous* employer!" Evard purpled. One hand slid to his pistol-pocket, and fingered the revolver he

Jose noted the movement. In a trice he was covering his enemy with the muzzle of a similar weapon, while he said, threaten-

"One little motion, Carl Grand—just a little—and you die! You know I am one to keep my word."

Then Evard's attention was attracted to

Then Evard's attention was attracted to the child. At first glance he started; then he whitened, drew one hand across his brow as if he doubted his vision.

"What is that?" he cried. "Who—"

"A-h! you look frightened. Don't you know who it is? Your memory is bad. You forget faces! Study closer—it is Carl Greville, heir of Nelson Greville—" "You lie!"

"Oh, no; I never tell lies. You did not kill him, either. The devil is against you; and so is Jose Moreno. Can you fight Jose Moreno and the devil? Ha!—take care! If you draw that pistol, I shall certainly

Just then came a cry from behind Josea yell, half-screech.

"Captain! captain!" shouted the voice.
"Save me! Satan is at my heels! Help!
or I shall be murdered!"

Jose knew it was Miguel. But he was not "green;" he did not turn to see the cause of the disturbance, though the appeal for aid and the pattering of feet told him that his follower was in difficulty.

And it was fortunate for him that he did not look around, for, in one second, Greville would have shot him.

'Captain, help!" shouted Miguel, again. Then there was another cry—from the lips of the Hunchback. He had recognized Jose. Both of his hated enemies were now before him; and the fury of a demon warmed his veins, as he dashed on, close upon Mignel.

The voice of Hercules proved too much for even the schooled nerves of Jose Moreno. He knew who it was; he was thrown off his guard; he wheeled to save himself from one whom he feared far more than Evard

Crack! went Greville's pistol.

Jose staggered to his knees, and, ere he could recover himself, little Carl was torn from his arms.

But, he still held the revolver. As Miguel came up, panting and snorting in terror, the wounded man raised his wea-

pon and fired at the pursuing form.

Hercules reeled, for the ball grazed his temple, and stung like fire. Miguel, with unerring aim, sent the carpet-bag whizzing into the face of his foe.

The Hunchback fell, and over him tripped the small man, who sprawled full length. In a moment he was writhing length. In a moment he was writhing under the grip of the dwarf, who, half"The district of the dwarf, who, half"The dwa

stunned, half-blind, supposed him to be one of the Spaniards; and the iron fingers closed in a deadly hold around the throat of

"Say! Say! Hold on!—no, I mean let go! Murder! You've made a mistake! Lord! you'll strang—urg—murder!" squealed the diminutive humanity, as he wriggled and squirmed like an eel on a hook.

"A curse upon you!" snarled the Hunchback as he released the man and tottored.

back, as he released the man, and tottered

But, Jose and Miguel had disappeared— Greville and the boy had disappeared. The break in the crowd now filled up;

again the fugitives of the night were hurrying through the tunnel. Hercules strode on to the west entrance, where he glanced on every side, in vain, for a sight of the two villains. Then he retraced his steps, angry and gloomy in his discomfiture.

A slim shadow, closely hugging the wall, watched him till he was lost to view, finally moving away in the direction of the west opening, tightly grasping a carpet bag, and smiling with satisfaction.

Hercules suddenly remembered that he had left Mortimer Gascon in peril. The fire was marching northward; he saw that, with the heavy gale blowing, nothing could

with the neavy gale blowing, nothing could save that portion of the city which lay directly in the front of the flames.

The high, roaring sheet of red, which was rapidly devouring block after block, was now eating into the fat heart of a proud city—plunging its brands of ruin and desolution on the print of the same of the property of the same of the same of the property of the same of t lation on! on! with a sweeping ferocity no effort of man could resist.

The home of the negress was already enveloped.

He quickened his pace. But it was a useless walk; he was soon forced to pause.
The engines were driven from their posts; the heroic firemen, worn and desperate, were beaten back, back, as the seething vortex of destruction hurled itself upon their stands, seeming to swallow, in huge gulps, all that came in its way—bursting doors, shivering windows, toppling down noble edifices—nothing could endure, every

thing must perish.

And the Hunchback looked anxiously ahead, then around among the fleeing mul-titude, for a sign of the negress; for he knew she must be driven from her house, and an uneasiness for the safety of Mortimer Gascon possessed him.

(To be continued-commenced in No. 110.)

Madeleine's Marriage:

THE HEIR OF BROADHURST. BY MRS. E. F. ELLET,

AUTHOR OF "UNDER THE CLOUD."

CHAPTER XIX.

DANGER, AND A PLAN OF ESCAPE. As the door closed behind the girl, the gentleman turned toward his wife. She had seated herself, and was striving to regain her composure. He took a seat at some

'I can understand all this, madam," he said, after a few moments' silence. "You have been weak enough to encourage the pretensions of a young man with whom I have not even a slight acquaintance." Madeleine made no reply.

You must have understood, Mrs. Clermont, from the time-two months sincethat you communicated to me what you olled your daughter's engagement, that the rojected marriage met with my disapprotion."

"Allow me to remain in peace?"

"Allow me to ring, madam," rejoined the gentleman, endeavoring to pass her.

"You shall not distress Oriel!" cried the mother, passionately. "I am the mistress of the mother, passionately. called your daughter's engagement, that the projected marriage met with my disappro-

"Because I feel an interest in her welfare; because I consider it my duty to oppose the errors into which your obstinacy might lead you; the evil result of which could only be counteracted by my pru-Your prudence!" repeated Madeleine,

scornfully.

"You speak as if you doubte my possession of that quality, madam."
"How can I, when you have shown it in your own affairs?" May I beg you to explain?"

"In the drawing up of the agreement be-

'You mean the agreement of separation that preceded our marriage?" The lady bowed in assent.

By which I was to have the estate in case of your death without heirs! I trust you will remember, madam, that I asked no more in that, than the law would give me as nearest of kin!"

"That contract," replied the lady, "ex-pressly stated in the event of Oriel's death." am not certain that mine was mention-

"But it was understood, of course, and stipulated, too. I could not legally inherit while you lived."

"Be that as it may, I did not hesitate to sign the agreement, because, if aught happened to deprive me of my child, I knew all worldly possessions would be indifferent to me. Although I expected nothing from your proposed regard and respect for my self, I did hope for some tenderness for the young creature dependent in a measure on your nominal protection, when she should reach the age that required it. But, instead

of that, sir, you have seemed to look upon my daughter with positive hate."
"You were mistaken, madam," replied the gentleman, his lips parting so as to display teeth whose whiteness gleamed in contrast to his dark mustache, "as to my feelings toward Oriel. On the contrary, I am anxious for her welfare. For this reason I objected to the alliance you proposed for

You did not state any objection.' "My silence might have shown you that did object. Now, at some inconvenience, I have come to inform you that it does not suit me to allow my stepdaughter to bestow her hand on the first unknown young fellow

who thinks proper to solicit it."
"This 'unknown young fellow' is the son of Colonel Duclos, an officer of merit." 'Indeed! It is strange I never heard of him.

'I told you, sir, many years ago, when the dreadful tragedy occurred—when Lewis
—when my child's father and Duclos, his unhappy companion, were murdered on the

The poor woman could never refer to that fearful occurrence without a shiver of horror through her whole frame. It was some minutes before she recovered her self-

union of those two children, whose fathers perished together?"

"Highly romantic, no doubt," replied Marlitt, caressing his mustache; "but, unfortunately, out of the question; inasmuch as I have another match in view for my step-

Madeleine looked at him in astonishment. "The suitor I favor," he continued, "is the son of a wealthy diplomatist, and is engaged in the financial department of the office."

'And so, sir, after so many years of indifference and neglect, you suddenly remember you are Oriel's stepfather, because it suits your interest to sacrifice her by some ambitious marriage; or one, perhaps, that will promote your interest!"

"You are right, madam; it will be a capital thing for my interest."
"You would sell her, then! But it shall not be! She shall marry Frank Duclos."

She shall not! "She shall marry him, because her happiness—nay, her life—depends upon it! My own life has been a wreck, because I foolishly hoped to find happiness in wealth and station; my daughter shall be saved! Yes—I repeat it—this marriage shall take place -were I to meet my death in the struggle

with you! Madeleine had risen, and supported her-self by the back of her seat. Her eyes were fixed on her persecutor with a look of proud

determination "You are disposed to be resolute, madam. But you forget that your daughter is under age, and that, as her guardian, I can prevent a marriage I dislike, even if I can not com-

pel her to one I approve."
"I do not admit, sir, that you have any authority over either myself or my daugh-

"I have all the authority with which the law invests me, which I have not voluntarily surrendered."

The contract—" "Guarantees no power to you in this matter. You will find that my authority can be enforced.'

"It can not be," cried Madeleine, passionately, "that such power can belong to one who has been a husband and father but in name; who has never given my child the slightest protection! I defy you, sir! You slightest protection! I defy you, sir! You can have no legal claim on her obedience!"
"You will find that I have! and I shall

take care to make it available. I wish now to speak with Oriel."

to speak with Oriel."

"She is engaged, sir."

"Why is it your wish to prevent an interview? If she prove intractable, she may, indeed, have reason to fear me; but I am confident I shall succeed in convincing her that obedience is her best policy. Madeleine was struggling to control her feelings. She had a great fear of this man;

and would have sacrificed her own life to shield her daughter.

As she saw him move toward the bell, she intercepted him.
"What do you wish, Mr. Clermont?"
"To send word to Oriel that I wish to

speak with her.' It will be of no use; she will not yield

We shall see." "Oh, sir, spare her the misery—the shame of this contention! Let my sufferings content you! Let my child be happy!"

"I mean to make her so, by a union suit-

ed to her condition." I have never asked a favor of you, sir! Grant me this one! Stay: I will buy it of you! What is the price you require to al-

low her to remain in peace?

of this house! Your message shall not be taken to her; I will forbid it."

Jasper smiled. "If you are the mistress of the house," he said, "I will let it be known that I am your master! Please to stand aside !" Madeleine had resolved, when the servant

came, to forbid him to carry the message; but, before her husband could reach the bell, the door was opened, and the footman brought in a note which he presented to the gentleman.

"Say I will be at his house directly," was his reply. The servant disappeared, and was quickly followed by his mistress, who was anxious to warn her daughter. Marlitt's lip curled as he saw her depart in such haste.

'No further occasion for prolonging the interview, she thinks! Well, I am glad the explanation is over. I must manage to persuade or intimidate Oriel into this marriage. If I can not, I am ruined! I have let things go on too long. I must make up the sum in ten days, or disgrace and a prison are be-fore me! Now for the Jew. He must not

be seen in this house!" He was leaning against the mantel in deep thought, when Julius again entered

"Has the man gone?" the master asked, looking up.
"Yes, sir. He said he should expect

'Very well; now attend to me. If Mr. Duclos should call, he is on no account to be admitted." 'I will see to it, sir," replied the man, a

smile lurking in the corners of his mouth.
"You shall be well rewarded, if he is kept from visiting here. Remember, these are my orders.'

"Shall you dine at home, sir?" asked the footman, as his master was leaving the room. No attention was paid to the question.

When the door had closed behind him, Julius exclaimed: "All right, sir; I am not going to let in Mr. Frank; for he is already in the house, and has been for half an hour! Fond lovers and flinty-hearted fathers! Let me put it down on my notes, how it is. It will be an item for the Jew."

Meanwhile the alarmed mother had joined the lovers in the boudoir. It was a small, but luxuriously-furnished

apartment, opening into a miniature conservatory, where a fountain flashed in the sun, its basin filled with goldfish and delicate aquatic plants and shells. Oriel was seated on one of the sofas covered with crimson damask; her hand clasped in Frank's, his arm encircling her waist. They did not move when the mother entered.
"My children!" was her exclamation, as

she came to them, and a burst of tears fol-

Oriel sprung up and clasped her mother in her arms. Frank brought a chair, be-seeching her to sit down, and tenderly in-

"a powerful enemy, and I know not how to

protect you."
"It is Mr. Clermont!" said the young girl. She had never called him father. "He has come here determined to break off your engagement with Frank, and if possible to compel you to marry one of his

wn friends." As if he could!" exclaimed Oriel. "Let him make the attempt!" said the

young man,
"He is more powerful than you think.
He has the law on his side; at least so he says; and he claims to be my daughter's guardian."

'Let us defy his authority!" cried Frank. "He has never been a protector to her. Her affairs are in the hands of the executors. He can do nothing!"

"Oh, Frank, I never knew him threaten in vain; and he speaks with such determination. What shall be done?" "There is but one thing to be done, dearest mother. Let Oriel become my wife at

The young girl colored deeply, and murmured a faint dissent. Her lover caught her hand, drawing her closer to him.

"Do you not say so?" he pleaded, earnestly, to her mother.
"The marriage must be hastened; I see no other way of escape," said Madeleine.
"But it will require some days, and I tremble for her every moment! Stay-this can be done; she can leave London secretly Mrs. Byrne is at home; I will write to her this very night to receive her and keep her safe till you can join her, Frank, when every thing is ready. It will not do for her to stay here—and be subjected to Mr. Cler-

mont's tyranny.' 'Oh, mamma! let us both go! You and

"I can not venture just yet; I must be here while he remains. But Frank can see you safe; can go with you, if necessary. It must all be done secretly; perhaps to-morrow evening. I will pack her things myself; I will write to Ada at once."

"And when shall I come for Oriel?" ask-

ed her lover. You must not come again. I would not

have you meet him. Oh, you do not know him, either of you; but I do! I have had reason, these years—these years!" She wrung her hands, as if excited by agenizing recollections.
"I will send you word, Frank," she re-

sumed, "where you shall join her; you and she shall take the carriage to the station, while I keep the wolf at bay; the wolf that would devour my pet lamb!"

These words were uttered with streaming

tears, while she pressed the girl to her throbbing heart.

After a few minutes' longer consultation, young Duclos took his leave, while the mother and daughter withdrew to make all necessary preparations for the meditated flight. They did not perceive the listener at the keyhole, who had heard all that

The hasty letter to Mrs. Byrne was written, and given to the footman, with strict orders to post it immediately. What he did with it will presently be seen.

CHAPTER XX.

TWO VILLAINS IN COUNCIL. In the rear of a stationer's shop, on a small scale, was a little room shabby enough in its appointments, and much littered with papers, where sat Simon, the Jew, absorbed, apparently, in looking over accounts. He was stout and square built, with an ungainly gait, notwithstanding the promise of great strength in his muscular limbs. His and by a black patch on his left cheek; pair of green goggles on his eyes served still further to hide the expression of his countenance from the observer. What re mained visible was a sallow, muddy complexion, a coarse, brutish-looking mouth, and a low forehead, over which strayed a few locks of grizzled hair, leaving the top of the head entirely bald.

As the dim light was darkened by a shadow in the outer shop, he called out:

"Come in, come in, mein friend; you will find me at work in my den." The tall form of Marlitt Clermont, stoopng to pass under the low door, entered the interior room. He looked stern and pale, and made no gesture of salutation. The Jew rose and offered him a seat.

Then he carefully closed the door leading into the shop. "I ask t'ousand pardons for giving mein honorable friend the trouble to come here: at the same time I am charmed to see him

looking so vell." "I could not receive you-in that woman's house," returned the visitor, angrily. "I thought you understood that. She must know nothing of my affairs."
"T'ousand pardons! I thought de hus-

band vas de master, in England. "Don't talk in that way! To business! What did you want?" 'A trifle-a mere trifle. I have just for-

warded for presentation de promissory note signed by you, for de amount of four thousand pounds."
"Why were you in such a deuce of a Because, mein goot and very esteemed

friend, you are too much at de gaming-ta-ble, and you do not see de difficulties dat are gathering round you. I discover dat your affairs are slightly embarrassed; and as I do business on account of oder persons, I must 'ave de moneys before any oder creditor, you see.'

Marlitt leaned over the table between then, and laid his hand confidentially on the Jew's arm. "My good Simon," he said, in a low tone, "I expect soon to have plenty of money. It is certain—in a few days. Grant me a little delay, and you shall be fully satisfied."

fully satisfied."
"Mein esteemed friend has found a rich husband for his daughter," said the Jew, with a coarse chuckle. "Ah, I see; I have hit—as you say—de head on de nail. You don't seem quite comfortable, Mishter Clermont. Are you not well? Pless my soul! you looks quite blue!"

"The villain!" muttered the gentleman, between his teeth. "How does he come to know every thing?"

"But this rich husband," continued Simon, eying his companion behind his clumsy spectacles, "is not the one the young lady has picked out for herself—ch? She sets down her pretty foot with what we men of business call a clencher. There is a hitch, mein friend."

"I do not understand you. Do you pretend to know any thing of my family affairs ? 'Just a vera leetle; what I hears out-

side."

"What is that?"

"That you spend your moneys too fast; much too fast, and have to come on your vife for more from time to time. That she vife for more from time to time. That she is very good voman, but does not like you, and pays her moneys to get rid of you; that she means to marry her daughter to Mishter Frank Duclos in spite of you, and to give up all her moneys to the young people; that will cut you off from your extra supplies, mein vera good friend, and den you will be in von great big pickle."

"You rascal!" exclaimed Marlitt, starting to his feet; "what is the meaning of this?"

"You know de meaning vell; what I mean is—pless my soul!—to make haste and present my draft for four thousand

and present my draft for four thousand

"One moment!" interrupted the visitor, in undisguised trepidation. "Are you not aware that, in hastening my ruin, you ruin yourself also?" 'Not at all, mein excellent friend!" re-

plied the Jew, calmly, looking at his watch, and muttering something about bank hours.
On the other hand, I must stand to mein employers. Dese moneys ish not mine; I have them only in trust. I must be faithful to my trust.

"I know the money was not yours; and I know the name is not yours which appears on the face of the note you wish to negotiate," retorted the other, as he placed his hand, with some force, on the Jew's shoulder.

The Jew started in visible confusion. "Pless my soul! Vy, vat do you mean?" he exclaimed.

"I mean," replied his visitor, leaning over toward him, and whispering in his ear, "I mean that if you drive me to desperation, you go down with me. If I am arrested for my gaming debts, I shall have the satisfaction, the same hour, of handing you over to the police. I can very easily show when your last name was assumed—after the burglary and robbery in Paris, where you made a haul that enabled you to set up business in the brokerage line. Then that little affair of many years since, on

'My tear friend-you don't mean-"I do mean mischief to you, if you breathe a word against me or my credit." "You will denounce me," said the pre-tended Jew, in an altered tone, " after paying me for the job, and furnishing me with money to go to Australia, and to keep me there?"

"You had better have stayed there, as you agreed to do." The villain shook his head. "Too small a pension, and irregular. You are not to be trusted at such a distance." "You have risked a great deal in coming

"I thought my disguise perfect." "I might not have recognized your person; for you have grown so robust; but you can not always command your tones, Hugh Rawd.

When did you find me out ?" "To do you justice, to-day only. But to business. I suppose you will delay the presentation of that document you spoke of!"

The man touched a small bell on the table and whispered to the lad who came in reply to the summons, and who went out

"Have you sent him to stop the draft?"
"Nothing of the kind, Mr. Clermont. I have sent him out on other business alto-

'But about the note of mine-" "It is safe among my papers here. I shall not use it at present."

After a pause, Marlitt resumed:

"You see, therefore, our interests lie to-

ether, in promoting the success of my scheme."
"You are right, mein honorable friend,"
replied the man, retaining his Jewish dialect in a measure. "Now tell me, vat do

Any means—I care not how desperate —that may bring us success; that may save me from disgraceful failure. You say you know the man my daughter has chosen; suppose you were to follow him—insult him; a duel might follow, and—"

"Pless my soul! and I should be killed! I am vera—vera—mooch obleeged to you, sare, but I'm too fond of my tear exist-'Pshaw!"

"I have no skill in dueling; I like the fighting to be on my side altogether. But—any little t'ing in reason that I can do for you in a small vay—I shall be happy—" "Villain—you mean to do nothing! I

can see you are mocking me!"

"Gently, my tear. I do not like such language. And you speak so loud, some one might overhear you." He rose, went to the door, and looked into the shop, which was empty.

By good luck, nobody there."

I am in a strait; and must see my way out of it. You refuse, then, to give me your help?"

"I refuse to fight with a young man trained in a military school so good as that

"I have no patience with your rubbish;

"Then why should I spare you? I can at least punish you!" said the gentleman, with a gloomy frown.

"Stay, sir; not so fast. I have something to show you." The man opened a red pocketbook well stuffed with papers, and took out two or three, closing the wallet and returning it to

his pocket.
"I will trouble you," he said, "to run your eye over these. Copies only, I beg you to understand; 'twill be no use to destroy them. I have the originals in a safe He handed the papers to Marlitt, after unfolding them, and drew the curtain so as

to let in more light. Marlitt glanced hastily at them and grew pale as death. He read on, then started to his feet and crushed them in his hands.

"Wretch! traitor!" he exclaimed, his eyes flashing fire. "This is a trick! It can not be true!" "You will find it so—when the time comes to make it known!" was the reply.

"Impossible! Preposterous! You could not have kept it—for all these years!"
"You forget that I was balked in the attempt I made to better myself through those papers-' "What do you mean?"

"No matter; if I had succeeded, the affair would have been brought out at the time. But I was balked, as I said; and I should have gained nothing by airing the secret." "You can do nothing with it now!" whispered Marlitt, anxiously, glancing

'I came to England chiefly to see about



"Have you trace of the party?" "Of course. But I shall give you no information."

Hugh, you have been doubly a villain!" "You may spare your remarks, sir; I have been true to myself, and mean to be. "Hugh, you will sell me these papers?"
"I will thank you for them, sir; they are

only copies; you have crushed them till they can hardly be made out." He took the papers, smoothed them out, folded, and restored them to his pocket-

You will sell them to me?" "Not if I know it; just at present, sir."

"What are they worth to you?"

"Nothing, till I can make a bargain for them; and I have not made up my mind where to look for the best."

"Hugh, I will pay higher than any one "You are not exactly in condition, sir.

Now, if you had the estate in hand—"
"That can be managed," whispered the other. "I have the promise, if I can make the girl marry Ormsley, of a transfer of the portion she would have, with an advance sufficient to cover my debts and set me afloat. I shall eschew gaming, and I can manage my wife. Hugh, I will make it

"If you can do that, master, I am yours entirely," said the ruffian, heartily. "And if your prospects are so good, I rather think I will east in with you." "You are safe in doing that. When will

you let me have the papers?"
"No haste; I must work cautiously. I will not part with them under twenty

"Twenty thousand pounds?"

"Not a farthing less! But you could not raise the sum now. I know that very well. If you can get the transfer you spoke of, it might be someod." might be managed."
"It shall be, and you must help me."
"Nobody can do it better."

The tinkling of the shop bell gave notice that the messenger had returned.

"Excuse me von moment," Hugh said, resuming his Jewish accent. He went into the shop, spoke to the boy, then went out for a few moments into the street. When he returned, it was with a look of triumph on his repulsive visage. He passed into the back room, and resumed his seat.

"If you can manage," said Marlitt, "to get the young man Duclos away from London for a few days, I can deal with the girl."

"Ah, my tear friend, without me she would be too much for you. She will leave London herself to-morrow.

What do you mean? "Her mother intends sending her avaysecretly—down the country—avay to the Downs."

"For what purpose?"

"To keep her from you: that she may marry the young man—and that very soon, I can tell you." "How do you know her plans?"
"Ah, sir, I have von littel bird, vot flies

and tells me every ting."

"Do not dare to jest with me, fellow!"

"There, you are on your high horse again.
Vell, den, I know the lady's mind from her letter. Ladies often put their mind in their letters.

He produced a neatly-folded letter, the seal of which had been broken, opened it, took out the inclosure, and presented it to Marlitt recognized his wife's hand-writ-

Marlitt recognized his wife's hand-writing at once. In extreme surprise he asked: "How came this in your possession?"
"Ha, you are astonished, are you? Vell, one of your—I beg pardon—the lady's servants, when he was sent out to put it in depost, made some mistake, by having a crown put before his eyes, and take my pocket for de letter-box."

"You have a saw?" evaleimed the righter

"You have a spy!" exclaimed the visitor, starting up, his face crimson with rage. "A spy in my house!" 'In the lady's house; you do not live

"What is that to you? It is my house as long as my wife lives in it! How dare you employ one of my servants as your spy, or tamper with his honesty, so as to intercept

Now, you are unreasonable, my tear! If I have not the letter, you would not know what it says. Your daughter would escape—would marry her lover; all your plans would be frustrate. You see it was

With an imperious gesture, enjoining silence, the unscrupulous gentleman read the

It was the one addressed to Mrs. Byrne, making arrangements for Oriel's secret visit and speedy marriage. The reader smiled grimly as he refolded the letter, which he placed in his vest

"To-morrow evening," he said, after a "Surely. Pless my soul, vot a fuss you

made about notting! You should save your rage till you have a leetle more time to

"Never mind my rage; it is all very well this time. Now, tell me, what can be done to prevent the girl's flight?" "We must catch her, and carry her off

At the station?"

"No—too many people; and young Du-clos on the watch for her." She will not be alone?' "If the lady or the maid goes with her,

we can dispose of them—eh?"

"She is to leave the house at nine, and take the night train. Her mother is not to But the young gentleman-

"Duclos is to join her at the station. The carriage is to come direct from the house and pass by Waterloo Bridge. Why not get the young man out of the way, so that they do not meet?

"It will not do; and the young lady might go on, hoping to meet him after-

She would not go without him; she would return in the carriage, and would then be intercepted. As you plan it, the fellow would miss her directly, and there would be an alarm and a search."

But I know, sir, of a secret passage from the street into the garden of a little hotel, where I know the folk well. There is a deep fountain in the center of the garden,

and a drain opening to the river
"Are you sure of the people?" "As myself; if they are well paid." "We must arrange about this to-morrow," said Maritt, rising. "It is of the last importance that this escape is prevented; yet

I must not be known to move in it. If I can get her away safely, I can manage the rest." Here the boy from the shop looked in, to the furtherance of his new-born desire.

say that the hackman was waiting for Mr. Clermont's orders.
"I had forgot," he said; "I promised to

dine with some friends. I will see you to-morrow, Hugh; but do not come to my hotel, nor to the house. I will call here at one o'clock. Have every thing ready; and don't forget to furnish masks. Masks! For what?"

"You do not suppose I shall risk being seen in this affair! You may do as you please: but have a mask for me."

'All very well. Goot-evening, my tear The twilight had come on during the

above colloquy, and the lamps were being lighted in the street. A hackney coach with two horses, in better condition than those belonging to ordinary public vehicles was drawn up at the door.

I did not order you to wait here," said Marlitt, angrily, to the driver.

The man respectfully touched the hat slouched over his brows, and explained that he had seen him go into the Jew's shop, and as he remained so long, thought he would like to be taken up there, instead of

at his hotel. Marlitt entered the carriage, and ordered the man to drive to Berkeley Square. When he alighted, he bade him return for him at twelve, and handed him half a crown

over his regular fare.

The driver took the money with the usual scrape of acknowledgment; but the mo-ment the gentleman had turned his back to ascend the stone steps of the house, he dashed the silver on the ground with a muttered execration, and sprung to his seat, giving both the horses such a cut with the whip that they sprung away like lightning. He drove back to the front of Mrs. Clermont's residence, where he halted at the usual stand for coaches, not returning to his stable. Any one who had observed him would have supposed he had been hired to watch the house.
(To be continued—commenced in No. 105.)

Almost a Sacrifice.

BY JENNIE D. BURTON.

BALLIER had just left the grand saloon and the billiard table, and stood balancing himself within the street entrance, halfhumming a popular air as he wondered idly what he should do next.

He was one of those unfortunate mortals who had "done" the world so completely there seemed nothing fresh, new or attractive, remaining for him. This quandary that was puzzling him now, the mere necessity of killing time in a manner that should least bore him—every thing bored him—was no new one. He had known some enthusiasm, and made some energetic, though slightly disconnected, efforts once upon a time, but, left to himself, it is doubtful if he ever would have accomplished a work to mmortalize him.

Twenty years ago he was an artist, with an independent income just sufficient to indulge his natural indolence while making a pretense of working his way through life. He had luxurious tastes, an appreciative eye, and a vein of romantic fancy very much tainted with selfishness, I'm afraid.

He had fallen in love, of course, and, even

yet, sometimes had a fashion of referring to his destiny in a manner clearly indicating that he considered himself as having being a victim. Unfortunately, the pretty young girl who exchanged vows of affection and constancy with him was poorer by half a dozen degrees than the impecunious young artist himself; yet they might have afford ed another illustration of love in a cottage had not good fortune come to the youth in the shape of a wealthy and eccentric patron.

Ballier, with one of his bursts of enthusiasm, availed himself of the opening offer ed, and, with protestations of unchangeable faith, sailed for the old world. Once in Rome, he painted a little, studied the same, and idled away a great deal of time in com pany with other young art-students of his own inclinations. His eccentric patron dying one day while yet enchanted with his newest plaything, left to Ballier the bulk of nis fortune. Thus necessity for action, the single prop to his spasmodic endeavors, was knocked away, and his life since that had peen a checkered one of idleness and dissi-

The pretty young girl left behind him little time in regretting the tardy over: she married and drifted into obscuri y which he had never chosen to penetrate. Beyond a pang or two at first he suffered but little from heart regrets, though hugging to himself a sense of cherished aggrievement.

He was forty-two now, with little furrows in his forehead and some silver threads in is crisp, curling hair—not alone the insignia

of passing years, perhaps.

A graceful figure in the moving throng caught his eye with a half-recognized fa-miliarity as he still stood in the street entrance-way, and for the lack of any better employment he followed the direction it had taken. Scarcely impelled by an object hardly feeling the lack of one, he followed on to find himself presently in one of the city parks and very near to the rustic bench which was seated the graceful figure of the girl who had attracted him there.

He stood still, passing his fingers caress ngly through the glossy waves of his im perial, slowly drawing a recollection from the depths of the past as he scrutinized the fair, fresh face, which was the very counterpart of that other one, the girl he had loved and left-lost, he said-twenty years ago.

Some shadow of the old love must have been stirring then, for when a dashing young fellow was welcomed gladly to the vacant place by the girl's side, Ballier frowned and turned upon his heel with a

icious word. He followed the slender thread that had its start that day. With no stronger interest draw him away, he held to his clue per sistently, and was gratified by the very result he had pictured.

Coral Lynne, wearing the perfect face which was not a new appeal to the artist's ove of beauty, scarcely thought to violate the right of appropriation which he exercised. She knew him as an old friend of er mother, and the girl's heart went out to him gratefully as she saw the comfort his presence brought to the parent, whom she

To Ballier it seemed like a new phase of existence, when he entered the plain little cooms with the windows filled with growing plants and a mite of a singing bird in a gild biness of this still cozy little home was no drawback to his enjoyment, for he saw in it

The shackles of wedded life had not set easily on Mrs. Lynne. The pale, shadowy woman, with the wasted form and consumptive cough, could not be reconciled in his mind with that ideal of the past, of which the breathing representative was the girl Coral.

With his coming appeared, as well, many an unwonted delicacy in the poverty-strick-en home, and poor, worn-out Mrs. Lynne was endless in her praises of the man who had been her lover.

"We are so wretchedly poor," she said to him one day. "It does not matter so much for me; I am over the worst—of life and its trials, I mean. The doctor has told me that I may not live a month. I am only troubled now for my little Coral.

"Does she know?" he asked, gently.

"Not yet. I am a pitiful coward in not

finding courage to tell her."

"Let me do it, and don't worry over her future. Listen, Ally "—it was the old pet name by which he had known her. Coral shall not want; I am going to ask her to marry me."

The thin, worn face flushed, and the hollow eyes grew luminous, but a gloom shaded them almost immediately.

Alice Lynne's married life had been far from happy; it was present with her always, and had grown more vividly clear of late. how different that life might have been had the old compact been fulfilled. She felt now, for her daughter's sake, that Ballier's ordering of events might involve the same mistake which had embittered her own ex-

"If Coral loves you, nothing would give me greater content, but I would not cloud my child's life by leaving her an unloving wife."

'How can it be," he asked, smilingly,

"when I love her so?"

And Mrs. Lynne, dazzled by the old infatuation, thought surely that Ballier could not fail when he set himself to win a woman's heart, and vaguely pitied her own remnant of a wasted life.

He drew Coral away for a drive with him that afternoon. He chose a smooth, straight road lying beyond the city limits, and almost sympathized in the girl's delight over the stretches of landscape that unrolled, like a panorama, from every decided point of view. The cynical, blase man had soft-ened wonderfully in these last few weeks under the pure influence of the little home circle he had invaded. He dreaded now the effect of the communication he had to make, but would not lose the opportunity

he had purposely sought.

He broke to Coral the fact of her mother's precarious state, and then urged his own cause through his knowledge of her devotion to her parent.

"I am sure she can be saved yet," he said, hopefully. "A winter in Italy, and a year of travel afterward, will bring renewed health. Will you marry me, Coral, at once, for your mother's sake?"

I have said before that he was selfish. It must have been an intuitive fear of losing her that made him urge the plea which could most powerfully sway the girl's mind. A pallid shade settled over the exquisite face he loved to dwell upon, and the drooping eyes darkened with some intensity of emotion which locked her slender fingers in a tight clasp. Few women would have thought it a hard alternative presented to her, for Ballier was accepted as a star of enviable magnitude in the circles where he

He waited for her answer, but waited in vain. Her face was turned away, but she was so rigidly still he thought she had not understood him after the shock his first an

"Coral, little darling, don't despair. There is hope, I know. Will it not be a blessed knowledge that you have saved your mother's life?—let the thought make you brave to bear her present danger But, Coral, you have not answered me." Her hands closed convulsively one above the other.

"Give me a little time," she said, and her voice sounded strangely stifled.
"Time! At such a crisis, Coral? Have you no knowledge of your own heart?

'Only a little time," she pleaded mbly. "Only until morning." humbly. "I shall expect your answer then," said Ballier, a little stiffly. His self-confidence

was shaken by her hesitancy.

It was nearing dusk when they reached her home again. Mrs. Lynne met them in the doorway, a little anxious, with a hectic flush upon her cheek which seemed like a brighter flicker of life to show how fragile was the vase. Coral lifted her face for her mother's kiss, rigid and cold as marble.

Ballier lingered, and the searching eyes of Coral's mother saw that all was not yet decided but with a woman's tact she kept clear of the subject so vitally interesting to

Coral came down with a waterproof wrapped about her, and passed quietly out into the street. Not unobserved, for Ballier had been waiting for a word with her before he should go. He followed her; but so swiftly did the light form move through the swaying throng that, for a time, he only kept her in view without lessening the dis tance between them. During that time he had leisure to think, and continued to fol-

low without attempting to accost her.
Straight on to the park where he had seen her first. A misgiving crept into his mind, and he watched her jealously. She turned into a side-path which lay in shadow and was wholly deserted now, pacing is back and forth with restless steps. Back and forth for a full hour, pausing now and then to listen, with palpitating heart and bated breath, as if for the approach of some one who came not.

The clock in a neighboring steeple rung out the hour, and drawing her cloak close about her, she turned to retrace her steps Ballier came face to face with her as she assed out through the park gates; but his int of an accidental meeting did not de ceive her. He was startled at the wild an uish of her blanched face as he saw it for ne instant by the light of a street lamp. when she turned the indignant blaze of her eves upon him.

"I have not yet given you the right to log my steps, Mr. Ballier. Could you not generous enough to let me enjoy my st night of freedom?"

I forgive your impatience of my anxiety for that much assurance, my Coralmine through all the sweets and ills hence orth. I am not a demonstrative man, and shall endeavor to make answer by my alered life of the sincerity of my love for

She shrunk away from him as he drew ber hand within his arm, shivering. He half-paused, and glanced searchingly into

her excited, pallid face, as he quietly asked, "Have I mistaken, Coral? There must be no dallying; it is yes or no—life or

"I promised you my answer to-morrow Mr. Ballier, but the delay can profit me nothing now. You have not mistaken; I will marry you whenever you please."
"Thank you, Coral." He quietly pressed the unresponsive hand, and the distance to

her home was traversed in silence. "I will see your mother to-morrow," he said at parting. "I will come early for a

half-hour with you first."

"Good-night," she answered, and passed in without the pretesne of a lover's caress. There was a light in her mother's room, but Coral shut herself in her own apartment with a fierce determination that this night should witness the burial of the one dear hope which had glorified her otherwise monotonous life. The morning light, glimmering grayly through the casement, defined her figure drooping and dejected, her eyes heavy-lidded and dark, but with an endur-

ing resolve fixed unwavering there.

She went down to the quiet, shabby rooms where, until now, she had known only happy hours, and waited wearily for Ballier's coming.

There came a quick, springy tread in the little passageway, and the door flew open under a more impatient hand than that of her accepted suitor. A young man stood within the room, the same Ballier had seen with her that first day in the

"Coral, my own at last! Come to me,

She shrunk away with a terrified look.
"At last, Coral. You are not frightened now by this happy finis to all our troubles, pet? Dear trials, were they not, since we loved so truly through all? And now, dear one, nothing shall take me from you

She dropped upon a chair, and put out her hands with a deprecating motion when he would have come nearer. "Too late!" she wailed. "Too late, for-

What is it, Coral?" He stopped, the triumph and radiant expectation of his countenance changing to an expression of

"Why did you not come before?" she cried, moaningly. "I waited to the very last moment, and then how could I act differently? Despise me if you will, Graham I have promised to marry another man-"Coral!" There was a world of reproach

in his tone, and sorrow, but not anger.

"It is plainly my duty, Graham. Mother is dying here, and he may save her by the care his wealth will procure; for her sake I must abide by my promise. I waited to the very last, but you did not come."

"The man who estranged me from my fa ther lay dying. He repented at the last, and confessed to the crime which he had saddled upon my shoulders; it was his wish to see us united again by the old bond of confi-dence and love. I waited with him until my father came; we are reconciled, and he is prepared to welcome you as a daughter to his home. Oh, Coral!"

"Not a word to influence me from my duty, Graham. Oh, love! it is hard, but

we can only submit."

The two young, brave hearts were wrung to their cores. He would not utter the words which would make her task so much the harder; he knew she would not swerve from the straight line of duty she had

Farewell, Coral!" He gathered her trembling form into his arms, imprinting a kiss upon her forehead. "For the last time,

He turned, and Coral uttered a gasping cry, for in the doorway stood Ballier. He had heard and seen all, and a generous im pulse-let us hope it may weigh against some of his faults-led him to give her up frankly as a better man might have done

"Go to him, Coral, and be happier than you could be with me." He would not listen to their grateful thanks, but hastened from the sight of the

joy which was bitterness to him. And at last accounts, Graham Cole, with Coral—his wife—and her mother were so-

journing in Italy.
Ballier is in Rome, working at his art, in the old fitful manner, and becoming enamor ed over again with his old love, Alice Lynne. Renewed health has restored something of her old charms, and expectant happiness af-ter a weary season of trial, lends a content she had not hoped to know.

A First of May Romance.

BY MARY REED CROWELL.

A CLEAR, pale-brown complexion; lips of glowing red; eyes and hair of rich purple-black hue—just shut your eyes and imagine how Mabel Randolph looked as she stood demurely before her mother, listening to the

tide of words that flowed from her lips. "Move? of course we must! as if, with our reduced circumstances, you don't expect I can afford to keep a house at fifteen hundred a year? I rather guess we will be obliged to get along without marble mantels and gas, unless the landlords over in Jersey are less rapacious than the New York

Mabel looked out of the window in a pleasant, assenting sort of way; then, with a sudden, low exclamation of delight, bowed, blushed and smiled at some one who was

Mrs. Randolph's sharp eves saw her in a second; and saw, too, the gentleman who had raised his hat so gracefully. And then she turned sharply upon Mabel. 'Wasn't that Wilbur Cranford?"

A something in Mrs. Randolph's voice made another brightness on Mabel's cheeks, That is Mr. Cranford, mamma."

"Mr. Cranford, the wealthy young real Mrs. Randolph's voice grew more and more severe; and, in proportion, Mabel's

"He is the one," she replied; and then essayed to retire from the room.

But, in tremendous gravity, Mrs. Randolph rose from her seat, and waved the girl

No. Mabel: there never will be a more fitting opportunity for what I wish to say, and have wished to say for the last six months. Mabel as I said, we have got to move; we are very poor people now, and, in consequence of these two facts, your good sense will show you we also will be dropped from the circle of friends who now very much enjoy our society—or rather, our nicely-furnished rooms, our suppers—" "Oh, mamma!" and Mabel's cheek tinged deeper and deeper, "surely not everybody is so selfish?"

"Or rather, surely Mr. Cranford is not so selfish? That's what you mean, I suppose. Now, look here, Mabel. Once for all, first and last, if there is any thing between you and this young Cranford, there must be a stop put to it. It never shall be said that Jabed Randolph's daughter had a rich fellow running after her when she hadn't money enough to buy a pair of shoes."

Mabel started, then paled, then cried

out: "Oh! it isn't so bad as that?"

"As what? too poor to buy the shoes, or too poor to encourage a rich lover?"

The tears gathered in the girl's eyes, and

she turned away to hide them, trying so hard to understand her mother's reasoning.

"Mamma"—and her voice quivered—
"there is no engagement—but—but—we both motorstand" both understand—"
"No you don't! I command a stop to it all at once. Here, I will do it."
And Mrs. Randolph, fat, heavy and stub-

born, with not the tiniest spark of sympathy or romance in her expansive bosom, wrote characteristic letter on the spot, while Mabel looked on, crimson with indignation, yet powerless to prevent its reaching Wil-

Then, when the flat had gone forth that she was not to see him again, Mabel walked ip-stairs to her own room and sat down, and wrote just such a contradiction as just such a girl would and could write.

Then she called Bridget to mail it for her; and then, almost cheerfully, answered her mother's call to come help pack for moving some of the most valuable parlor ornaments.

Wilbur Cranford sat at his desk, that sunny April morning, scenting a tiny button-hole bouquet that he had bought coming down-town—a geranium spray, a tuberose, tiny stalk of heliotrope, and a half-opened

crimson rosebud.

Somehow, his thoughts were much of Mabel Randolph this sunny, glorious morning. Yes, he would have his jet-black matches and chocolate-colored barouche around, about eleven, and take May for a

He never had taken her, nor indeed ever been anywhere with her, much. A call or so, a walk or two; but it had been enough to convince him that he loved her, and sure-A letter was flung aside from the pile he

was carelessly opening, because the direc-tion was in a woman's hand; and it was Then, all of a sudden, as he read, a gloom overspread his face; a gloom that deepened and widened until nothing but dark sha-

dows were on the features that had been so "So it is all over! I am forbidden the

house, or to speak to her—"

He tore up the letter, but instead of throwing it in the waste-basket, he burnt the fragments to ashes, and then went on with his other letters.
"Mr. Cranford?"

He looked up at the gentleman standing by his desk.
"Oh! Jefferson, that's you? Good-

"Oh! Jefferson, that's you? Goodmorning. What can I do for you?"

"Get me a tenant, Mr. Cranford, No. — 23d street, you know; gas, hot and cold—"
But Wilbur sprung from his stool.

"—23d street! Who were your last tenants—are they gone?"

"The widow Randolph—don't you remember? Why, where are you going?"

"With you to the house, to see if it is suitable for our lists. So the Randolphs are

suitable for our lists. So the Randolphs are out, eh?" 'All out, and paid their rent clean up to

the first of May."
So Mabel had drifted away from him. She had gone—where he did not know; and yet, led on by some overmastering impulse, ne determined to see the place just as May had left it. Together the men examined the house so neat and in such good repair; examining locks, and testing the dumb-waiter; trying

the pulleys at the windows, and peering into closets and pantries for rat-holes But there was no repairing needed; noth-But a sealed envelope lying on the shelf in the closet of what had been Mabel's bedroom; an envelope addressed to Wilbur

Cranford, directed in Mabel's own dainty Very quietly-for Mr. Jefferson's eyes were wide with surprise-but with a delicious ecstasy Wilbur read it, that explanation of her mother's cruel note. This, that so

utterly refuted it all. Wilbur thought of but one thing—where had she gone? He did not think to look at the four-weeks-old date, or wonder why the letter never had left the house. All he knew, and all he cared for was, Mabel was

Then he went to find her. A quiet little place enough it was where they lived, and Mabel—had she not been so sad, so grave—would have made it perfectly radiant. As it was, since the day Bridget had mailed her letter to Wilbur Cranford, she had been wondering first, then half-affrighted at his silence, settled down into a decision that he wanted no more of ner friendship-no, love it was between them; pure, true love, too, she always had

thought.
But it seemed as though he had lightly lost her—well, she couldn't help it; and she'd get over it some day. And just then she became cognizant of the fact that the ferry-boat had stopped and all the passengers gone off—yes, even others coming on the gross back.

With a little flush of mortification, Mabel sprung up and hurried through the cabin-

"Mabel May! I was seeking you! I heard you lived over in Jersey City—"

"Oh, Will—why didn't you answer—"

"I know! You see, I never got it till today—up in the old house, in the closet. But it's all right, little May! we'll never be parted again, even if Mother Randolph does try

"In the closet?" repeated Mabel, in utter

surprise. "My letter?" But they neither could explain it; but Bridget had told one of the children that he "clane forgot it, whin Miss Maybell gev it till her, and she pit in under the paper on the clussit shilf, sure, for fear.'

So, if they hadn't moved, perhaps Mabel might have been lost to Wilbur. But at the same time, I wouldn't advise people to move





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98 WILLIAM ST., NEW YORK.

TO COMMENCE NEXT WEEK. BARTLEY T. CAMPBELL'S HEART AND HOME ROMANCE,

WITHOUT MERCY; THREADS OF PURE GOLD.

Always enchanting and highly pleasing as Mr. Campbell's stories are, this last production of his hand is, in some respects, his best. It is, like all his other works, of Dickens-like fidelity in its delineation of character, but has in it a powerful dramatic element which makes its interest so persistent and strong as to command every reader's attention.

The drama is of New Orleans and vicinity in its locale, but is not essentially different from what it would have been if located in any other great city, for human nature, good or bad, is not the product of place; and woman nature certainly is not the expression of her surroundings. The transcendent heroism and purity there is in her nature this charming serial exhibits, with a power and force that are of unmistakable import.

Our Arm-Chair.

A Life Calling .- A young man asks ad-

"My parents and I have had quite an argument as to whether I should learn a trade or not. I desire to become a business man, and think I have the necessary tact for it. My parents, on the other hand, desire that I should learn a trade. Which would you advise me to do? Am sixteen years of age."

The secret of success may be given in the rule-do that for which you are best fitted, or for which you show the most aptitude. If you have a taste for mechanism and invention-if your organ of "constructiveness" is well developed-be a mechanic, by all means. The idea that a mechanic is not as "respectable' as a professional or a commercial man, is a vile one, that has been strengthened by the mechanics themselves permitting inferior men to give tone to the trades. If young men of education and good families were to learn the trade for which they were well adapted the "respectability" of the mechanic would soon assert itself in a way well calculated to prove the dignity of all labor.

The professions are immensely overstocked. There are lawyers enough in New York city alone to supply the entire United States, if they were strictly confined to the object of their creation - the enforcement of justice. There are doctors enough in the country, north of Mason's and Dixon's line, to supply the sidering the small demand there is for the multitude of inferior men who "preach." There are, in truth, more men in the commercial marts-more persons "in business." than there is any need for; but there is no surfeit of toil-tillers or mechanics; everywhere they are in demand, and everywhere they do well

if industrious and provident in habits. So we say to young men, consider all these things in your choice of a life-calling. Don't be at all influenced by the foolish, the wicked idea of the superior respectability of the professions, or of commercial callings; but, guided solely by your own tastes and talents, do that for which you feel best adapted, and your success in life is assured.

Protect the Birds!-If the indiscriminate slaughter of birds could be prevented we would soon cease to lament the terrible destruction to plants and fruit caused by worms and bugs. Birds are kind Nature's special gift to man to aid him in conquering the enemies of his fields, orchards and gardens; and yet, year by year, we permit loafers to roam over our lands, shot-gun in hand, to slaughter every one o the dear birds that their eyes can discover. In Illinois, we are told, the partridge has been found especially available as a destroyer of the chinch-bug, which is so injurious to wheatfields, and the people are beginning to protect them from the fowler. One farmer says he has hundreds of tame partridges about his place, and his wheat crops are unusually abundant, while in places not far away the chinch-bug commits great ravages. He feeds the birds in

If every land-owner would arrest, as a con mon nuisance, every man or boy found on his premises with a gun, this "Slaughter of the Innocents" would soon be stayed, and the precious birds would soon so flourish that fields, woods, gardens and roadsides would be musical with their delightful presence. Let every farmer, every lot-owner, resolve himself into a special committee of one to care for the birds; and, next to the man who always give eth in charity to the needy, he will be reck oned as worthy of the benediction: "Well done thou good and faithful servant!"

Oregon.-A lady correspondent from the far-off State of Oregon, writing to express her admiration of this paper-which, we are happy to say, has a considerable circulation theresays, among other things: "One reason your paper is dear to me is, that you are not repeating calumnies against Oregon." We hardly know what calumnies others have uttered. Certain it is the State is a most promising portion of our vast domain, and is destined, in a generation, to become a great and powerful commonwealth. What with its magnificent forests-its grand rivers-its soil of surpassing richness-its superb climate and its mineral wealth, Oregon has within her elements of greatness which render her by far the most important of our Pacific States. And now, a class of people is quietly drifting in there whose intelligence and farsightedness will direct the State aright and make it a land of schools, churches and noble enterprise.

"I'VE HEARD SAY."

THERE comes that mean, miserable and despicable expression again, and when I hear of a person giving utterance to it, I am almost sure that something disagreeable is about to follow, and I let the information go for just what it is worth—nothing; for I am no believer in hearsay evidence; hence, if I am obliged to listen to it, I bear the infliction with as good a grace as possible.

I can't see why everybody likes to treasure up all the bad qualities of everybody else and forget all the good traits they may

I try to go on the opposite rule, but pre-cious little comfort or satisfaction do I gain. I remark that Mr. Goodly is a very fine man, and his wife ought to be proud of him. "Yes, Eve, my dear, but I've heard say he drinks," is the comment made upon my speech. Supposing he does? So do I

I drink tea and coffee, and water, and I
am not averse to lemonade. If Mr. Goodly does drink any thing stronger, I am sorry, but that is not the way to make a temperance man of him. I remember now he does drink, and it was vile, nasty stuff—it was when he was sick, and it was cod-liver oil. Is that prohibited in the temperance code? Mr. G. decidedly wishes it was!

Then, there's my dear friend, the widow B., who is dependent on her sewing for a living, but it is just as much as my life is worth to praise her, for again pop in the words: "Yes, she is very deserving and all that, yet I've heard say she's angling for a

econd husband.' Because the butcher brings her meat, the baker bread, and the postman her letters she's angling for a husband, is she? If I believed that—and I can't bring my mind to it—I'd advise her to secure the butcher, for then she'd not have to worry over her meat bill; still, as Mr. Butcher is already married to a strong and long-lived woman—the baker engaged to a fine young Miss, and the postman don't care a straw for our sex, I guess your guess wasn't right that

May I venture to suggest that my grocer sells me pure sugar, without getting for an answer: "Yes, he is as honorable as the general run of men in that line, yet I've heard say that he keeps his sand-barrels and sugar-barrels suspiciously near each other

Can I remark about my new neighbor having a fine, healthy color on her cheek, and not be obliged to listen to "I've heard

say that she buys paint quite often "?

Am I not to be allowed to say a word in praise of the voices of the tenor and soprano in the church choir, without being compelled to hearken to the refrain of, "Humph! But I've heard say they are too proud of their voices ever to be good Christians"?

Patience ceases to be a virtue in such cases, and I am sick and tired of having this "I've heard say" dinged into my

If you don't know for truth what you are uttering, then keep that tongue of yours between your teeth; 'twill do less mischief there, and the world at large will be happier for your reticence.

I have told Mr. "I've-heard-say"-and told him in a not very polite manner, either —that I don't want him to darken my doors again. I can find better associates than he is, so he needn't think I'll shed any tears on his account. When he leaves, I'll doublelock my door against him, and he may rap for readmission until his knuckles are sore, before I'll let him in. So now

EVE LAWLESS

HEADACHES.

An oft-perverted plea that same headache but no other ailment can accommodate itself to such twists and turns when circumstances block one into a corner from which one is extremely anxious to escape. Think how convenient when you would otherwise be subjected to intolerable boredom without even the escape-valve of a yawn behind your hand which politeness forbids, to conjure a headache to your service and thus escape the double penalty of annoyance to ourself and offense to another

It has the advantage, too, of being a stricty genteel indisposition. It presents no unleasant picture to a vivid imaginationnothing more defined than a misty idea of a quiet, darkened room, cut-glass vinai-grettes, and odors of eau-de-cologne.

Now, neuralgia and toothhace are sure to present thoughts of camphor and ammonia not-drops and cayenne. The idea of pleadnot-drops and cayenne. ing such a disorder would send a thrill of disgust through a nervously-sensitive sys-

To be sure, headaches are not always called up for the occasion, though I am apt to ispicious when I know that some undesirable contretemps is avoided by one. often too the common plea is given to ac count for a pallid, pain-drawn countenance and heavy-lidded eyes which hardly dare lift themselves lest they betray the true mal-

ady, and pronounce it "heartache" instead. But there are some bona-fide cases as I can testify to my own regret-some people with a flaw in their physical structures which dooms them to frequent attacks of raging. tearing agony; pains which beat double trip-hammer measure in each temple, and shoot in burning flashes through and through; when sight and sound and thought are alike insupportable.

It is curious to note the difference in such cases between the enduring powers of man and woman.

Ferdinand Adolphus on the morning following a club-supper, late hours and champagne, finds himself the victim of one of those "deuced headaches, subject to 'em, you see!" and quite unfit one for office duties So Ferdinand Adolphus lounges in dishabille on the back-parlor sofa, his heels braced precariously against the swinging walnut what-not, and a best towel with pounded ice bound about his fevered crani--little Ferd, Adolph and the baby ban shed to the third story, and Juliana May broiling herself and a pigeon's wing over the kitchen range, toasting her complexion and slice of light bread, preparing an infusion of strong tea and running every second mo-ment in answer to the impatient calls of his lordship, striving her best to alleviate his

suffering and tempt his appetite.

Presto change! Let Juliana May awake with one of her nervous disorders, to find by rubbing every one of her ten digits into her wide-open eyes and screaming to the full volume of her sound baby lungs Ferd and Adolph clamoring to be dressed Ferdinand Adolphus before the toilet-glass twisting off his collar-button, growling that he has overslept himself and has only twenty minutes to breakfast, and " will May just step down and poach his egg, see that his coffee is poured and beefsteak done?"

May accordingly drags herself down the staircase though she sickens at thought or sight of food. The twenty minutes are up and breakfast over, but her husband finds time to smoke a cigar while he sends her to find his gloves and memorandum-book. He snatches a kiss at last, advises her to lie down and "get rid of that headache," and

Lie down! It is baking-day, and three of Ferdinand's friends are coming to dinner. The little ones are presenting vooiferous claims for instant attention. Bridget is of the "raw Irish" and can be trusted with no-

But the day must be got through, the work done some way; and so it is, though May is ready to "drop" rather than dress for the return of her husband with his

When the whole wearisome time is over and she is free to "drop" in reality, Ferd expresses his sympathy in boisterous man-

"That headache not gone yet? Thought you'd have slept it off through the day. Sorry for you, May, but you women must be used to it—'pears to me you're always having headaches!"

And this same lack of sympathy it is that gives us women many a heartache along J. D. B. with the rest.

FRIENDLY ENEMIES.

I THINK stupid persons are a mistake of Nature. They are a misfortune to every one but themselves; but that curious law of compensation, by which a spiritual lack is to the person most concerned not a loss, because not realized, here prevails, and they seem never aware of their deficiency. They are a perpetual blister to those with

whom they come in contact, a source of ir ritation from which there is no escape, an enemy with whom there is no compromise and no armistice. There is no such thing as giving them a hint. Eyes they have, but they see not; and as for understanding—if they are blessed with that article, they have

an especial talent for ignoring it.

But the good-hearted, well-intentioned stupid person—I verily believe the Inquisition could not have furnished a more exquisite instrument of torture.

They kill you with kindness a dozen times a day; and do it without a pang of conscience, too. They are anxious that you have a rocking-chair whether you prefer it. or not. They are afraid the curtains are not arranged to suit you, and persist in re-arranging them in the face of your positive declaration that they are quite right, and then ask you, with a solicitude which would be ludicrous if it were not so provoking, if be ludicrous if it were not so provoking, if they "are as you want them, now?" If it is in summer, "Don't you want a glass of lemonade?" No, you don't want any lemon-ade. "Oh, yes! you do; it is very nice; just try it." Perhaps you may be foolish enough to think you know whether you want it or not, better than they; but, they make allowance for any such weakness on make allowance for any such weakness on your part, and continue to urge it upon you until you are on the verge of distraction, and don't feel a particle of gratitude for the kindness intended, and if you are hypocritical enough to say, "Thank you," your tone utterly belies your words—only your tormenter is too stunid to see it.

mentor is too stupid to see it.

If they are intimately acquainted with you, they presume on that fact to make themselves obnoxiously familiar, and discuss your business with a freedom that alike rouses your ire and defies your coldness.

They may be aware from long acquaintance that you are reticent; but, if there is any thing in which stupid persons excel, it is faculty of ignoring any and every thing which other people use as guide-boards on the way of life, and exercising their talent in this direction they persist in talking to you on strictly personal subjects, and han-dle your most sacred feelings with as much freedom as they would a chair. You can neither stop them by a distant reserve of manner, nor turn them from the subject. They pry into your individual feelings and experiences, and pick you to pieces till you have nothing to yourself—nothing in which

they have not a share. If you have any sort of trouble they sympathize with you to an unlimited extent, and are so afraid their manner will not express it to you understandingly, that they never fail to put it in words. Perhaps, in common with other mortals, you have your moments of despondency, with or without cause; and if so, and your stupid friends are present, the mask you wear must be of triple strength, and woe to you, if for an instant, you inadvertently let it drop! They are on the qui vive instantly, and never fail to ask you what the matter is.

It is useless to think to escape, though you don your mask again never so quickly,

and answer never so evasively. Evasion is not accepted by stupid persons Something is the matter— they have seen it from your looks (you may mentally wish they would use their eyes as sharply in a better cause), and they cross-question and pester you, until you are strongly tempted to make the condition of your liver an excuse, and be cross, but you don't do it—nothing of the kind. You hold still under the blows, as you always do, and get along with it the best way you can. To be sure, you don't give them a particle of satisfaction, but, that is small consolation considering that it only protracts the siege, and through it all, however long it may be, you are calm and courteous, though you may regret for a moment that it is impossible for you to snub them without being wicked.

For it is impossible, and you know it, because they are good-hearted, and well-disposed, and do not mean to be unkind. You must be suave and polite when every nerve is tingling with the sense of injustice, affable and entertaining when you are almost wild from a feeling of antagonism and inhar mony. A dozen times a day you must gird anew your armor and strengthen its shattered plates; you must possess your tired soul with greater patience, and no matter how deeply the careless wordy needles may penetrate, nor how sharply the heedlessly-given sword-thrusts wound, you must be gentle and courteous, and smile and smile, because they are well-intentioned. They may probe your heart to its core; they may drive you to the verge of madness with daily pin pricks; they may penetrate with careless footstep the most secret chambers of your soul; they may rob you of all individuality, and wound you almost to the death, but you must endure it patiently because they

mean well." I hope no one thinks me harsh or unkind. It is far from my intention to be either; but I ask if there is any excuse for a stupidity that leads one person to ruthlessly trample the feelings of another, and if any one has a right to be so thoughtless? If any one is utterly destitute of tact, and acts unkindly through absolute ignorance and obtuseness, he is excusable. It is his misfortune and not his fault. But if he does not use his eyes to a purpose, and make the most of such as his dull perceptions give him; if he willfully persists in never seeing, and never thinking, what then? Our brains were given us for a purpose, and no better use of them can be made than in finding where our own side of the hedge is, in our inter-course with mankind, and in keeping on that side. LETTIE ARTLEY IRONS.

Foolscap Papers.

My Book.

IT gives me great pleasure to announce to the American public and republic that my long-looked-for and eagerly-expected book has at last come through the press without a wrinkle in it. The title of this celebrated book is "How to put money in your pocket," and it will be read with avidity by all persons who desire to become your pocket," and it will be read with avidity by all persons who desire to become rich, of which class of people I think there are a few left. I would have published it ten years ago, but I desired it to be the very latest book out, so I deferred it until the present. I might have waited ten years more and had it later yet.

It is printed in very large type, and with but two lines to the page; this is for various evident reasons. First, because it will allow those who run to read, or, perhaps, they can read and then run, as the case may be. Then, again, there are blind people who can't read much; therefore, they won't have much to read, which is very conve-

Then there are a certain class of readers that like to get over ground fast who will find this book just the thing, as they can read the whole five hundred and sixty pages in just twenty minutes, which will allow them ample time to do any thing else during the day which they are inclined; for it is a great saving of valuable time. In fact, one of the primary things in getting wealthy is to save time.

I had this design in view when I wrote the book. If everybody else who writes a book would consider the same thing there wouldn't be so much time lost. In view of this fact, I have set a pretty high price upon the book, for it stands to reason that if a book takes a man a whole week to read it he will lose a whole week's work; this book of mine saves him his whole week's wages, and, therefore, he is foolish if he don't consider it very valuable. I could have made it smaller yet, and charged more, but I shall not murmur. I hope my reasoning is clear.

It gives all the different modes of putting money in your pocket, in a clear and concise way. It tells how some men put money in their pockets hastily and carelessly, and condemns the measure in severest terms, as it is liable to get out and get lost; and all that the Boston philosophers can say won't make me think other than that lost money gives a man more concern than money in hand. I hope I am believed.

It speaks of the more careful way of put-ting money in your pocket, and then pinning the pocket shut, and promulgates this plan to some length; but enough of this, lest I should get all the contents of the book into

this prospectus.

One fellow writes: "Your book is worth

money to any man. It would be hard to tell how much I have saved by it. I read it through, and don't think I will want to figure it up yourself. In the next edition won't you be kind enough to put a little preface in and tells us how to get the money, in the first place, to put it into our pockets

I had forgotten the thing alluded to in my correspondent's last sentence; but, then, each purchaser, if he will, can choose his own way of getting money in the first place.

It contains the picture of the Multiplication table being brought to a stand by coming in contact with the ideas of the book; the table of Division (Board of Public Works); the table of Addition (the poor man's); the table of Substraction (the Faro table), and a table of the interest on one cent for five hundred years or longer; also a map of the author's head, on the scale of an inch and a half to the mile, and a lifesized portrait of the comb he uses, sixtyeight years of age, yet showing a full set of teeth. I intended to give a picture of a one dollar bill, but many of my readers would waste all their time looking at it. The book is bound in cloth-broadcloth and cassimere

This book will be sold by subscription only: if you want, you can buy it any other

way.
The country must be thoroughly canvassed, canvassers firmishing their own canvas, and resting assured that they will sell, for it is the unanimous voice of the press that

they are the biggest sell of the season.

Agents must bear in mind that the author will in no case be responsible for their funeral expenses. Go into every house, and if they fail to buy, call again. Do not forget to tell them that the book will keep witches away and the children quiet; that t is death on cockroaches—that is, if it is laid flat on them. Assure them that it is none of your prize lozenge affairs.

If you should forget yourselves and praise the book up a little higher than is absolutely necessary, and your conscience should trouble you, write to me and I will try and get absolution for you. Tell them what a splendid thing it is for little children to learn their letters in. There is no poetry in

Ladies and gentlemen desiring territory in Central Africa, or the South Sea Islands will please exchange references and photos, and be furnished with a ship-of-war to convey them to their destination. Agents in our cities will be furnished with ten armed men each to accompany them on their grand rounds, and housewives are assured that the dish-rag and dish-water trick won't

Merchants assisting our agents out of in-hospitable front doors, faster than a walk, will suffer the fullest extension of the law and the neck.

My autograph, worth one hundred dollars, will be written gratis on all receipts for money paid. Old rags and iron posi-tively not taken in exchange for books.

Circulars (trimmed in the latest style) furnished to agents-especially to ladies on receipt of address—their addresses being paid to me.

The ah-thor, WASHINGTON WHITEHORN.

Readers and Contributors.

To Correspondents and Authors.—No MSS, received that are not fully prepaid in postage.—No MSS, preserved for future orders.—Unavailable MSS, promptly returned only where stamps accompany the inclosure, for such return.—Book MS, postage is two cents for every four ounces, or fraction thereof, but must be marked Book MS, and be sealed in wrappers with open end, in order to pass the mails at "Book rates,"—No correspondence of any nature is permissible in a package marked as "Book MS."—MSS, which are imperfect are not used or wanted. In all cases our choice rests first upon merit or fitness; second, upon excellence of MS, as "copy"; third, length, Of two MSS, of equal merit we always prefer the shorter.—Never write on both sides of a sheet. Use Commercial Note size paper as most convenient to editor and compositor, learing off each page as it is written, and carefully giving it its folio or page number.—A rejection by no means implies a want of merit. Many MSS, unavailable to us are well worthy of use.—All experienced and popular writers will find us ever ready to give their offerings early attention.—Correspondents must look to this column for all information in regard to contributions. We can not write letters except in special cases.

We can not use the following: "My Little Romance;" the four poems by W. H. W.; "The Snow;" "A Prince of Bad Fellows;" "Advice to the Uninitiated;" "Lncy's Masonic Badge;" "Who Can Tell?" "A Great Mistake;" "Since Summer Days;" "Sunset;" "My Wife and Her Cousins;" "Give Way for Liberty! 'cried Mrs. Jones;" "A Tour Through the Gilo Country;" "A Squaw Pioleer;" "My Nancy Jane."

The three sketches by Mrs. B. F. T. we will re-The three sketches by Mrs. B. F. T. we will return and answer by mail.

The serial by H. F. G. will be read in due season. We have some splendid things in the "line" of his story. Mr. Aiken has in hand a sequel to his "Overland Kit," which traverses the same field. The several poems, etc., by Miss P. P. S., are good as early efforts—are, indeed, promising, but not good enough for our use. Where so much is offered that is very good, we have to reject very closely to keep matter from accumulating.

The Funnygraphs, by Touchtimber, are not rendered more pointed or pertinent by bad spelling. We can not use them. Send them to some of the Boston papers!

No. 2. Washington Whitehorn is not George Francis Train. Whitehorn is a sane man.

The MS. by Clara Ogden comes back to us from Amsterdam, as not called for.

GEO. P. B. The numbers containing the Black Crescent will cost you 60 cents. G. S. Long letters are an editor's dread. They rarely find time for reading all MSS. offered—a long letter is an addition to their labors which they certainly do not smile at, much less answer. So write only briefly and to the point.

HERCULES has our thanks for his good words for the SATURDAY JOURNAL. We hope he may induce the whole neighborhood to think as he does. GILBERT, THE MUSTANGER. You will find, in every good drug-store, just what you want.

F. HORNING. The first volume of the SATURDAY JOURNAL will cost you \$2.77—Nos. 35 and 46 being out of print. Our first serial was "Hand Not Heart."

H. The Oriental Nations all ante-date Christian Chronology by about ten thousand years. Their written records reach back, it is assumed by Bunsen, ten thousand years.

G. The United States never coined money of the ralue of 12½ and 6½ cents. The old shilling and ixpence were of Spanish coinage. The colonial hillings, however, did not have the same value as

the Spanish.

JEFFERSON DEBATING CLUB, Cincinnati. If your vote was taken in open session, after a proper organization (election of temporary chairman, secretary and teller,) and had proceeded to vote proforma—that is, by resolution offered after organization, viz.: Resolved, that we do now proceed to elect offeres by ballot, etc., etc.—theu that election was valid and conclusive, and could only be set aside by a formal vote, or a resolution to reconsider. You must have a "Chairman's Manual" to consult on all questions of order or procedure.

M. H. E. We should say that either trade, it wall

M. H. E. We should say that either trade, if well learned, was a good one. Stair-builders are not in such general demand as carpenters. Indeed, in the country and interior towns carpenters are also stair-builders. It is only in the cities that stair-building takes the form of a special trade.

GEO. CAMPBELL. Write to American News Co. New York, Housekeeper. If your servant dies, his immediate personal representatives may claim the wages due, but none others can claim it.

due, but none others can claim it.

LEONIDAS. The first rulers of Poland were called dukes; but the last one reigning, dying without children, the Government became an aristocracy which, A. D. 700, elected Cracus king. In 842 a peasant was elected king, owing to the failure of the posterity of Cracus. In 999 Poland became an elective monarchy, the nobles choosing the sovereign; but, this state of affairs brought on civil wars. In 1772 Russia, Prussia and Austria infamously entered into a treaty for partitioning Poland. In 1830-46-47-48, there were revolutions in Poland, but all were subdued by Russia, with great loss of life to the wretched and oppressed people.

Theologian. The Church of England is recognitional to the control of the property of of the property

THEOLOGIAN. The Church of England is recognized by the State, and is represented in its Parliament by the bishops. All other Christian denominations are, however, freely allowed, but the State Church receives, to an eminent degree, State support

AMATEUR. The painting, "A Scene on Lake Dun-more," Vermont, is by Mrs. L. B. Culver, a lady who has gained an enviable reputation as an art

SNOB. You can purchase a handsome smoking-acket or dressing-gown for from \$15 to \$40. Have he silk facing either black, red or blue, to suit our complexion.

the shk lacking either black, red or blue, to suit your complexion.

INEXPERIENCE. A baby's clothing ought to be light, warm, loose, and free from pins. The clothing should not be too long or heavy, or it will weigh upon the infant. An infant's dress is long enough when it reaches about one foot below its feet. The chest, bowels and feet should be kept warm. A delicate child ought to wear flannel shirts, instead of linen, which must be changed as often as the linen would be. The dress should be loose, so that the blood-vessels will receive no pressure. Use very few pins. It will take very little more time to tack the clothes together than to pin them. The pins may prick the child. Girls and boys ought always to dress in high-necked dresses. To expose the upper part of the chest, (if the child be delicate,) is dangerous. Their clothing should be very loose, around the waist and chest; and entirely free from all tight strings and bands. Tight hats ought never to be worn; by interfering with the circulation they cause headaches.

Waitress. To polish your dining-room tables.

WAITRESS. To polish your dining-room tables, rub them for some time, with a soft cloth and a little cold drawn linseed oil.

X. Y. Z. If the dew falls heavily on the grass after a fair day, it is the sign of another pleasant day; but, if it does not, and there is no wind, rain will follow. A red sky at evening is the sign of fine weather; if it spreads too high upward, from the horizon, in the evening or morning, it portends wind or rain, and sometimes both. When in rainy weather the sky is tinged with sea-green, the rain will increase; but, if tinged with a deep blue, it will be showery. will increase; by will be showery.

HETTIE. Colored silk handkerchiefs tied lo ound the neck, are now worn in place of the boas winter. in winter.

MARY. To take the mildew out of linen, you must soap well the linen, and scrape some fine chalk over it; then put the linen on the grass; as it dries, wet it a little, and with a second application, the stain will come out.

LOTTIE. Do not cross your letter, as then the words run into each other, so that it is scarcely le-

EMMA LINS. To strengthen the weak ankles of your child, let them every morning be bathed for five minutes, with a little bay-salt and water, a handful of bay-salt in a quart of rain-water; let them be dried, then well rubbed with the following liniment: three drachms of oil of rosemary; thirteen drachms of liniment of camphor. Do not teach him to walk too early. Do not, unless you have bad competent medical advice, use iron instruments or mechanical supports.

M. M. Checkad and plaid cills will be in force.

M. M. Checked and plaid silks will be in favor this spring for children and young misses. They make a very pretty suit.

GARDENER. Take an equal quantity of sulphur and tobacco dust, strew it over the rose trees of a morning when the dew is yet on them, to clear the trees of blight. The insect will vanish in a few ays. Also syringe the trees with decoction of elder

HENRY MINN. The "Backgammon" means "little battle," and is of Welsh origin.

F. ANTHONY. Meat suppers are not good for children. Their supper should always be light; a piece of bread and butter, with a draught of new milk, is very good. They should never take supper later than eight o'clock.

Fashion. Spring bonnets are a combination of the cottage, and gipsy bonnets of last year. They have very high-crowned and narrow head-pieces. Unanswered questions on hand will appear



THE WITHERED LEAF.

BY LOUIS CARROLL PRINDLE.

Oh, darling, with what loving thought, I gaze upon this fragrant leaf; The tears rush to my eyes unsought, My heart seems breaking sad with grief.

I look back now to when we stood, Both hearts in sorrow's saddest mood, Our eyes dimmed by sad tears unwept

Then as we spoke the last "good-by," You gave to me this little flower; You kissed it first with tender sigh, Thus freighting it with priceless dower.

Then speaking low in sad'ning tone, You said, "When I am far from thee, And you are left to mourn alone, Then kiss this leaf and call it me."

Tis withered now—its life has fled;
Yet treasured, dear, last gift from thee;
I'll kiss mught else, until, instead,
You bring your sweet lips back to me!

Cecil's Deceit:

THE DIAMOND LEGACY

BY MRS. JENNIE D. BURTON. AUTHOR OF "ADRIA, THE ADOPTED; OR, THE MYSTERY OF ELLESFORD GRANGE," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER XVIII.

WHAT WILL NOT A WOMAN IN LOVE DO. THE suppressed bustle of clearing the rooms of their withered decorations, the en-tire task of restoring order from the chaos which reigns after the withdrawal of a concourse of people, was carried on swiftly and silently as might be behind closed doors and intervening distances. Care was taken that no distressing sounds should reach the chamber where the master of Frampton

Place lay so suddenly prostrated.

Doctor Strong had remained throughout the night. At daybreak he went away, leaving minute directions for the patient's treatment, and at noon called in on his re-

turn from other professional calls. He spoke cheerfully of the case, but impressed the necessity of having his instruc-

tions implicitly followed. "Mr. Frampton's vigorous constitution will withstand a much harder siege than this promises to be," he said; "I do not apprehend a violent attack if it comes to the worst, and I think the prompt measures already taken have served to avert other than a light form of the disease. With ordinary care and watchfulness he will be up again

within a week." Cecil had thrown aside her rich garments. enveloping her form in a quilted negligee of dove-colored cashmere, and all the forenoon retained her place by her husband's side. Now, she listened intently to the doctor's directions, and afterward with apparent re-luctance relinquished her station to Olive, who affectionately insisted that she must

take needed repose. She had not been near Eve all the morning. Now she felt that it would only be additional suspense to longer defer the time which should assure her of the other's fate.

She paused on the deserted landing to she paused on the deserted landing to gain command over her panting breath, and fiercely-beating heart. She had not once wished actual harm to befall Eve, and she shrunk even now from the possibility of finding her beyond power of asserting her claim again to her own (Cecil's) discomfiture. Her hand shook as she fitted the key into the lock, but her nerves were under complete subservience when she went in at last

She crossed the floor and knelt by the side of the couch. A glance dispelled the horror which the utter stillness of the room had called up. The crisis had passed, leaving Eve weak and helpless as a little child, but with a new lease upon the life which had been so nearly wrested from her.

She opened her eyes wonderingly as Cecil stooped over her, and murmured her name faintly.
"Cecil!"

"Be very quiet," Cecil said, knowing intuitively that the time recently passed was as a blank or an obscure vision to the other. You have been ill and are still very weak "I have been dreaming, I think, horrible things! Where is papa?"

For the time all remembrance of her past sufferings was blotted out, and Cecil would not recall those grievous reminiscences.

"You must see no one until you have gained strength," she answered, evasively. Sleep if you can; it will do you more good than any medicine, now."

Eve smiled silently. She was too con-

fused yet to note her strange surroundings and wonder at them. She closed her eves and soon slept softly as the infant which has known no care in life." I must not let her suspicions be aroused.'

reflected Cecil, as she gazed on the thin face where just the faintest tinge of warmth broke the transparent whiteness of the skin. It is time now for the potion to do its work.'

So, when she came again, bringing broth that had been ostensibly prepared for the other invalid, she had the vial of colorless liquid with her. Just a drop in the drink e held to Eve's lips, but she knew it was all her purpose required.

She sought her chamber afterward, and

tried to gain a few moments' repose. But the vial containing the potion which she had concealed in her bosom, seemed like a

thorn planted there, painfully rankling. She took it out and held it up to the light. The clear compound, so seemingly innocent, had a fascination for her which she could not resist. Over and over again she conned the substance of the words the old Jew had

"A single drop once a day will keep the patient in a quiescent, tractable state; double that quantity will produce stupor and confusion of the mental faculties. An overdose produces coma, which ends in death

without leaving any apparent trace."

Then words which Victor had spoken to her once since their evil compact had been made, rose up and ranged themselves along

Were it not for your husband it might be different. Were you free now I might renounce every other consideration for you

It seemed so easy to free herself from the whole complicated toil by a single bold stroke. With the fear of Hugh Frampton's

vengeance forever removed, his wealth in her hands, she need fear no rival, and the considerations which swayed Victor now would be easily swept away. It was useless to woo sleep with such thoughts in her mind. She arose and con-

fronted her image in the mirror above the dressing-table. Her face was aglow with bright color, her eyes sparkling, her lips scarlet with excitement. No one could

have deemed that murderous thoughts were astir beneath that beautiful mask. She scarcely realized it herself. She was dwelling on the future which lay beyond, the space between to be bridged by the commission of that dark crime.

She went back to her husband's side with

the vial still concealed in her bosom. Doctor Strong called again during the evening. He expressed himself well satisfied with the condition of his patient, and

ordered some slight changes in his treat-

"I will drop in some time to-morrow," he said, as he departed; "perhaps not until late in the day. If any decided change takes place except for the better, let me know at once."

No serious consequences were apprehended by the household. All had perfect faith in the skill of Doctor Strong and in the

Cecil pleaded to keep the night vigil alone, but when overruled in that, agreed to give up the watch during the later hours to Dick Holstead. Olive, who had been in constant attendance during the day, retired

early to her chamber. The hours passed, and at midnight Richard took up his position at the bedside. Mr. Frampton slept heavily until day, and then only stirred uneasily without awaking. Cecil was with him again from the dawn. Her devotion was touching, the servants declared, in their own manner of expression, and others thought the same. Olive's

heart warmed toward her as it had never done before. It was growing dusk when the doctor came again. His assured manner as he entered the sick-room changed as he bent over the patient in the semi-gloom.

He called for a light and contemplated him in grave silence.

"There has been a change, and not for the better," he said.
"I should have been called before this." "He has slept almost constantly," Cecil hastened to say. "We thought he was do-

This is no natural sleep. It is a stupor more pernicious in its effects than even de-lirium would be. I am free to confess it is a symptom I can not reconcile with his for mer condition.

Then, as if fearing he had said too much. he added:
"Mind, I don't apprehend any danger.
It is simply unfortunate, and threaten to

retard the speedy recovery which I pre dicted." Cecil followed him into the hall as he

was going away.
"Don't deceive me, doctor," she begged clasping her white hands and lifting her fair face full of anxious pleading. "It is mistaken kindness to attempt to blind me!

Will he live?"
"Fie, fie!" ejaculated the doctor, in the abrupt manner peculiar to himself. "Did n't I tell you he's in no absolute danger? Only see that my directions are strictly fol-lowed, and I pledge myself to bring him up

sound as new."

"But, doctor—pardon the doubt—1 thought you did not exactly understand his

"Well, you are partly right," he answered, bluntly. "I have never had a parallel case, but I don't despair, for all that. I don't mind telling you plainly, madam, that every thing depends upon his rousing from this unaccountable stupor; yet I don't think it advisable to employ severe agencies. The fever is checked in the start; consequently there's no fictitious strengh to combat it; but a man of Mr. Frampton's tenacity should be able to throw off such torpor. That's a plain statement of the case, and nothing

very alarming in it, I assure Cecil stood looking after him as he strode out. An inscrutable smile crept across her face as her fingers clutched the concealed

Victor D'Arno, himself unseen, had witnessed this interview from behind the sweep-ing curtains of an oriel window near by. He followed Cecil's retreating figure, mut-

She loved me, but in her anger once she would have struck me a murderous blow. He is an obstacle in her way now; will she be more lenient with him? I must watch, and perhaps turn the circumstance in my

That evening, as before, Cecil retained her place in the sick-room. The others came and went silently, sharing her vigil. When she was alone for a moment, she drew out the hidden vial, dropping from its contents into a goblet upon the table where

the medicines were ranged.

Victor, entering at the moment, noticed the quiet action of her hand dropping to

You must not fatigue yourself, Cecil,' said he, in the tender, commanding tone which he knew she would not resist. now, and get what rest you can. I am to watch through the night, and will call you if there is any change. What if this should result in perfect freedom to you, my own?" Her quick glance flashing up to him was sufficient answer.

She was really very weary.
"I think I can sleep now. It is time to give the medicine; afterward I will follow

She turned toward the range of vials, but

his quick motion anticipated her.
"This yellow liquid?" he asked, interposing his form between her and the little table. "Five drops, I think, was the order,

and the powder in an hour.' In the brief moment he diverted her attention, he had managed to deftly rinse the goblet, emptying its contents into his hand-kerchief. Now he dropped the liquid into it and placed it to the lips of the invalid Cecil watched the unconscious man swallow every drop, and went away satis-

Quiet fell upon the household. A tiny bronze clock upon the wall pointed its si-lent fingers to the midnight hour. The night-lamp diffused a softened light

through the room. Victor drew close to the bedside, fixing his eyes intently upon the sick man's face. Moments flew by. Victor's face grew rigid and white as the one pressed against the pillows, and great, cold drops started out upon his brow, but his fixed gaze never

Mr. Frampton moved his head slightly Victor drew a deep inspiration as of relief, and a moment after the other's eyes opened.

Victor's lips moved, but he essayed twice before any sound escaped them.
"Follow my commands," he said, slowly and clearly. "Lift your hand."

and clearly. "Lift your hand."

The hand which had lain powerless upon the counterpane was immediately raised.

"That will do. Repeat after me: 'I have no power to resist your will."

Clearly and distinctly fell the repeti-

"I have no power to resist your will!"
"It is my will that you, Victor D'Arno, wed with my niece, Olive Tremaine!"
Mechanically the words passed Mr.

Frampton's lips. Victor clasped his hands over his eyes, and then passed them over Mr. Frampton's brow. The latter relapsed almost immediately into his former unconscious state.
D'Arno wiped his damp brow, and, pour-

ing wine from a flagon at hand, took a deep draught. "It was a terrible strain," he muttered to himself, "but I have him now pliant to my will as wax in the molder's hands.

"If it is as I suspect, that she is drugging him, all the better; but he must not have an overdose until I have accomplished my end."

CHAPTER XIX.

THE DOCTOR ON A TRAIL.

THREE days passed. Mr. Frampton rallied slightly, but for the most part was un-conscious of all that took place about him. Doctor Strong came and went with calm, impassive features, that told no tale to

anxious observers.

The fourth morning a drizzling rain set in, rendering the atmosphere chilly and un-comfortable for the season, throwing an ad-ditional gloom over the inmates of Framp-

The doctor shrugged his shoulders dismally as he paused in the doorway to button the collar of his waterproof coat close about his throat. His calling left him no choice between blue sky and leaden, down-pouring

clouds, so he plunged unhesitatingly into the uninviting out-door space.

His horse, shaggy of coat, uncouth but strong of limb, and like his master inured to all phases of weather, jogged unconcernedly over the road toward the village. Midway the drew rein as Mr. Darplay approached he drew rein as Mr. Darnley approached from the opposite direction.

"Just from Frampton Place," he replied to the latter's inquiry. "Are you going there? If so, you may as well turn back again; I've left standing orders that none but the family be admitted to him."

"How is he?" Mr. Darnley asked, turning his hayse's head round about

his horse's head round about.
"So-so!" returned the doctor, after the non-committal manner of his class. "Little change—fluctuating—nothing decisive!"
"He has the fever, I've been told," con-

tinued the other, "the same which has created such a panic nearer the city. Is it likely to set hard upon him?" Mr. Darnley was a well-known friend of Hugh Frampton's, and the doctor answered nim more unreservedly than he would have

done most inquirers. "Three days ago, if you had asked me that, I would have told you not, decidedly. I don't know what to make of his case. If it wasn't so improbable, I should think some one was tampering with his condition; anyway, the medicines are not producing the results they should."

Mr. Darnley's face caught an anxious

'Who would do it?" he asked "No one, of course. I should not have mentioned it even as a supposition. It would be hard for any person to work him such ill, even if an object was to be gained by it, his wife is so devoted to him. She carcely leaves his side, and herself sees that my instructions are carried out.' 'His wife?" repeated Mr. Darnley, slow-

Young wives sometimes have an in-in ridding themselves of elderly hus-

The same thought had occurred to Doctor Strong, and while the doubt had been too shadowy to act upon, his allusion to Frampton had been made less in good faith than as a bait to draw out the other's opinion. He kept his eyes averted, lest his intention should there betray itself, and

'Frampton's wife seems to have taken the whole neighborhood by storm," continued Mr. Darnley, "but, for all that, I haven't fancied her. It may be all prejudice on my part, for I've nothing to base it

He stopped short as some dim idea broke upon him. The doctor eyed him now, im-

"A couple of weeks, or more, ago, the last time I was in New York, I stumbled across her in an out-of-the-way part of the city, not a very reputable section. I did not recognize her at the time, but I'd willingly take oath to it now that I saw her go into a drug store on — street. I remember noticing the name above the door; it

was M. Isaac!" "M. Isaac! No. 337?" queried the doctor.
"I can't say for that, but it may have

"I know the man; have had dealings with him, in fact. I think you have given me a serviceable idea, Mr. Darnley. That Jew has more than ordinary skill in his craft and may furnish me with a hint or two where I've found my own knowledge lacking. I turn off here; good-morning to

Doctor Strong did not intend that the other should fathom his suspicions, and assured that he had gained all information bearing upon the point at stake, thus abruptly left him.

CHAPTER XX.

A DEATH-CHAMBER PROMISE.

AT Frampton House every minor interest was apparently absorbed by the issue at stake in the sick-room. It was known now that the master's condition was at least precarious. Olive's grief, though silent, was deep and heartfelt.

Cecil had grown nervous, and incessant watching was leaving her wan, but no less resolute in attendance

Her husband's state was a puzzle to her, as it had been to the physician. Every day she had dropped the potion into the draught prepared for him, gradually increasing the quantity used; but the effect was not as decided as she could wish.

She was giving it to Eve in minute portions at the same time with satisfactory result. The latter was rapidly gaining strength, but her mind had not cleared, and she remained quite content and unsuspicious in her prison chamber.

ecil could not account for the slow action of the mixture upon her husband. The truth was that Victor had exercised an espionage over her, and through his watchfulness but little of the drug had been actually administered. For his own reasons he left

her in ignorance of the action he was tak-

The afternoon was wearing away, when Victor, who was left for a brief space above with the invalid, hastily summoned the

others. "There has been a change," he said. "Whether for better or worse I can not

They hastened silently into the room, Cecil, Olive and Richard. The servants gathered in the corridor, an awe-stricken roup, whispering to each other that the end was near.

Mr. Frampton was bolstered in a half-sitting posture. His eyes, wide open, seemed fixed and vacant, yet he apparently recognized those about him, and addressed them "Cecil, Olive, are you both there?" he

asked, feebly.

They pressed close to the bedside.

"My dearest ones! it is hard to know

that I must leave you." Cecil was white and speechless. Olive, affected beyond control, knelt by him, clasp-

ing his hand, which she shuddered to find clammy and cold. "Uncle! dear uncle!" she cried, striving in vain to repress her tears. "Oh, it can not be so! You will not be taken from us

for many years." "Don't cry, pet! I feel the truth of what I say. My life is almost drifted out, and it is better so than that I should live and suf-

He paused, breathing heavily. His utterance was slow, yet distinct, but no shade of expression moved his features. He was pallid as death, and his set gaze on the vacancy before him never wavered.
"Olive!"

"What is it, dear uncle?" "You have been a good, obedient child.
You will not refuse me my dying wish?" She sobbed aloud, but struggling with her grief, answered him:
"Ask me any thing you will! Let me

prove that I am not ungrateful for your long kindness to me."
"I should like to see you happy and beyou fear of trouble coming to you. There is another who loves you, scarcely better, but with a different love from that which I have borne you. Victor will protect you when I am gone, and it will be a comfort to me to see you his wife. Send for a minis

ter that he may unite you here where I can bestow my dying blessing."

Victor, shrouded by the curtains at the bed's foot, came forward now to her side.
"You will not deny him his request,
Olive? I will never let you repent the

Richard started forward as Victor's arm fell caressingly upon her shoulder. Knowing the baseness of the man's heart, he would as soon have seen her wreathed about

y a serpent's coils.

Remembering the place, and the danger of excitement to Mr. Frampton, he restrained the indignant protest upon his lips.
Olive shuddered.

"It seems so terrible to thus unite what should be my greatest joy with my greatest Dick, hearing her words, thought with an indefinable thrill:

"She has not perfect faith in him, or she would entertain no doubt that life with him should be her greatest joy." Cecil seemed robbed of power or desire to

act. Her fingers were interlaced in a tight clasp across her bosom, her face rigid and anguished. She saw the result she was periling her soul to avert being brought to pass through her own unmeant agency 'You will consent, to please me, Olive?"
Frampton said, his voice dying to a

whisper. "I am growing very weary, but I want your assurance before I can rest."
"It shall be as you wish," Olive replied. I could not deny you any thing now, uncle

Then send-send at once-for the minister." He spoke with painful effort. "Don't delay, or it will be too late." Victor stepped to the door and beckoned

Giles, who formed one of the waiting group in the corridor, to approach. 'Go for Mr. Deane with all haste, and bring him back with you. Tell him your master is very low, and his services are immediately required. Send those women be low where their noise will not disturb

The last order was called forth by a burst of sobs from Emmy Brown, who was near enough to overhear his words. "He is dying! Our good, kind master is dying!" she sobbed; and the lamentations

of the group as they crept away, were borne into the sick-room, but Mr. Frampton had sunk into his former apathetic state, and did not heed them. "Stay a moment," Richard Holstead commanded Giles. "On your way call for

Doctor Strong, and send him at once. Make all possible speed as you value your master's chance of safety." The injunction was scarcely needed. Giles went upon his mission with a cerlerity which

promised its speedy fulfillment. Richard returned to the darkened chamber, and finding Mr. Frampton apparently in a quiet slumber, after some ineffectual ef-

forts, succeeded in drawing Olive away. 'Let me speak with you if only for a moment," he whispered.
She followed him into an adjoining apart-

ment, weeping yet, but more silently. "It may seem harsh to speak to you as I am about to do," he began. "Let me beg of you not to fulfill the promise you have just given. Do not consent to this marriage. I am counseling you for the happiness of all your future life, and even the weight of a dying man's request should not balance against that. I know Victor D'Arno is unworthy of you, Olive; I know that he does not love you as you should be loved: I believe that he has wooed you only to consummate some selfish and villainous end. I don't ask you to believe all this at

once; only defer the marriage which will otherwise place your safety in his power. "I can not disappoint my uncle," she replied, tearfully. "I could never forgive myself if he died sorrowing over any act of

mine 'You would sacrifice your whole life to afford him a few moments' satisfaction over the gratification of a whim which may be the result of weakness or wandering fancy and which he may recover yet to repent un-

availingly." "It is useless to say more," Olive interrupted him, firmly. "You know it is only precipitating my marriage, and in the end what can the little time matter? You should not speak to me as you have done of Victor, who will soon be my husband."

"If I believed him worthy of you, or knowing him unworthy, yet believed in his

love for you, I would not interfere. You shall judge of my reason for thinking otherwise."

He repeated to her the declaration he had overheard Victor utter in the grounds.
"You must have been mistaken," Olive said. "Even if it were all as you say, I would still risk the chances of his deceit rather than have uncle Hugh suffer upon his death-bed through my refusal to comply

with his wishes." With that she left him, returning to her

position by Mr. Frampton's side.

Within an hour Giles returned, bringing the clergyman with him. Doctor Strong was not at his own house, and he (Giles) had left a message with the doctor's house-keeper, which would be delivered immedi-

ately on the doctor's return.

Victor explained to the minister the nature of the office required of him, and led him directly to the sick man's presence.

Mr. Frampton roused himself at their ap-

proach, and feebly checked the clergyman when he would have uttered some words of pious exhortation.

"The marriage first," he said. "If there s time you can pray with me afterward."
Victor, approaching Olive, took her unesisting hand in his, and led her before the

oly man. Reverend Mr. Deane, a meek, studious man, cast an undecided glance about him, and began the ceremony which should link them man and wife.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE DEED IS DONE! DICK HOLSTEAD stood by in gloomy silence. He had done what he could, and was powerless to save the girl he loved from what he felt assured must prove fu-ture misery to her, since she would take no step to save herself.

If he had possessed proofs of D'Arno's contemplated villainy it might have been otherwise; but, at most, his was only a suspicion founded upon words which the other might construe into apparently harm-less meaning, and in which light Olive was determined to regard them. She was resolved, despite all, to give herself unhesi-

tatingly into his power.

The hopes which he had permitted to spring up almost unconsciously during the ew days past were turned now to a gall of hitterness, all the more irksome to his spirit that he felt the uselessness of striving

against it. Much as he suffered, Cecil's concealed passions were yet more intense. Every sense was strained to the utmost, but she was outwardly composed as the minister's nonotonous voice broke the silence which had fallen.

In a short exhortation he impressed the solemnity of the rite he was about to celebrate, and the faithful performance of the luties it involved.

Then he began, in an impressive manner, the usual marriage formula. Victor's response was given, clear-toned and steady. Then the minister addressed

"Do you accept this man as your lawful husband? Will you cling to him through life; through evil report and good report; through sickness and health; riches and poverty—till death do you part?" Instead of a reply there came a low, terrified shriek from Olive. She was gazing straight before her, her face blanched, her

limbs trembling beneath her weight. The ordeal of the afternoon had shaken her more than any one imagined, and now she sunk fainting to the floor.
Unperceived by the rest, the door had wung, noiselessly, open, and a shadowy, white-robed figure was outlined upon the

threshold. To Olive, wrought upon by strong mental emotion, it appeared like a warning from the spirit world. Even Cecil was startled for a moment by the unexpected apparition. There was something strange in the air of the appearance-a vague yet gentle expression in the pure face, surrounded by a floating mist of soft, bright hair, that struck a feeling of

awe through every one there.

For an instant breathless silence reigned in the room. Then the door, impelled by some passing draught, swung shut again. Richard, closely followed by the clergyman, sprung forward and tore it open. The corridor without was vacant; no sight or sound to indicate that human presence had

been there. Hesitating momentarily, the two proceeded to search the passageways and apartments near at hand, but without result. Then Richard went below to question the servants, but no one could account for the strange appearance.

The interruption broke the inaction which Cecil had imposed upon herself. As Richard and Mr. Deane rushed from the apartment, Victor stooped to raise Olive's prostrate Mr. Frampton lay motionless upon the pillows, only his open, staring eyes indica-

around him. Cecil glided to his side, all of the demoniacal hate which had gathered in her heart distorting her features Quick as thought she drew the fatal vial from its place of concealment upon her person, and forced it between the pale lips of her husband. A shudder passed over his frame; he gasped, and lay perfectly still!

Swift as she had been, Victor turned and saw her motion. With a bound he reached

ting that he saw or heard aught that passed

her side, and snatching at her wrist drew her forcibly away.
"What have you done?" he hissed, in her ear. "Murderess now as you would have been before! I tell you, he knew

nothing of all that has been done; he was mesmerized and only obeyed the power of my will." She wrenched herself from his grasp, and turned to him wickedly exultant.
"Then I am glad! Glad to have foiled you; glad to be able now without fear of

him to force your truth to me. Oh, Victor, you have wielded me, body, heart and soul, and now you must abide by my claim upon you: for after this that foolish girl can never be yours. Not a shudder nor a pang of remorse for the crime she had committed. No horror of the weight of guilt which bore upon her. Blind faith yet in her own future, and in

the man for whom she had steeped herself in darkest moral infamy.
Yet when, a moment later, Richard and Mr. Deane returned from their fruitless search, she was kneeling by the bed wiping the moisture from the poor, cold lips.

She looked up into the former's face appealingly.
"I think he has fainted. Give him bran--something, quick !"

He put her gently aside, and stooped over

the motionless form. He laid his hand upon the cold forehead, and then, turning down the covering, upon the heart which no longer

Tears, of which he was not ashamed. stood in his eyes, and his voice was broken

"All is over; he is dead!"

(To be continued—Commenced in No. 107.)

Tracked to Death: THE LAST SHOT.

BY CAPT. MAYNE REID, AUTHOR OF "HELPLESS HAND," "LONE RANCHE,"
"SCALP HUNTERS," "WHITE CHIEF," ETC.

> CHAPTER LVIII. LOCKED UP.

Almost at the very instant when the negro had brought in the report that Fernand could not be found, the half-blood was conducting the savages through the gap in the garden wall.

And soon afterward, when the girls had been kidnapped and carried off, he was still nearer to the dining room. He was advancing toward it stealthily; not as an obsequious servant, but the guide of a band of housebreakers, prepared for murder as for

Had those lately inquiring for him but known of the guise in which he was making approach, they would have rushed forth to meet him—perhaps at the same time to meet their own doom.

Fortunately for them they did not know it, and remained inside the room. They only stayed to question the negro, intending afterward to take action outside

What do you mean, boy?" thundered Dupre, in a voice that well nigh frightened the darkey out of his wits. "Is Fernand not within the house?"

"Dat's jess what he a'n't, Mass' Looey. De 'Panish Indyin a'n't no wha' inside de buildin'. We hab s'arch all oba de place. De people call out his name, Fernan', in de store-rooms, an' in de coatyard, an' in de cattle 'closure—ebbery wha' dey c'u'd t'ink of. Dey shout loud 'nuf for him to hyeer ef he war anywha' 'bout. He gib no answer. Sartin shoo he no inside dis 'tablish-

The young Creole appeared dismayed. So also the others, in greater or less degree, according to the light in which each viewed

While perplexed by their mystery, on the minds of all was an impression that there was danger at the bottom of Fernand's doings—serious danger not only to them-selves, but to the whole settlement.

How near it was they knew not; though it was at that moment nearer than any of

At any other time the absence of Fernand from the house would have been a circumstance not worth noting. It might have been supposed that he was abroad visiting in some of the huts appropriated to the humbler families of the colonist fraternity. Or the attraction might be a mulatto wench," of whom there were several, belonging to Dupre's extensive slave-gang, some of them far from ill-favored.

The half-blood himself was rather a handsome fellow, as also given to gayety. This would have accounted for his temporary absence from the house and his duties as its head servant. Now, it not unnaturally caused alarm, connecting it with the suspicions already entertained about him. What the young surgeon had seen, and, above all, the r, Hawkins, impressed every one within the room, forcing them to the conclusion that Fernand was a traitor.

The question was asked: how, coming direct from the States, he could have an understanding with the savages of Western

In answer to this question Colonel Armstrong and Dupre now recalled to memory what had been made known to them by the man himself-that he had visited Texas be fore, and had been all over it. While seek ing an engagement he had professed this much of Texan travel, with a view of supporting his claim to capacity for service Therefore, his being in correspondence with Comanches, or any other Texan Indians, need be no mystery, should it turn out that he was so. It might be but the renewal of a former acquaintance. Though in blood he was but half-Indian, in physical appearance and other characteristics he was nearer three-quarters aboriginal. Stripped of civilized garb, and clad in the true red-skin costume, he would have looked the savage to perfection; as much so as any one of the painted cohort he was at that moment guiding through the Mission garden, to bring ruin, it might be death, to the men making free with his name.

Unconscious of the proximity of their danger, they remained discoursing of him and it. His unaccountable absence from the premises had roused them to a pitch of

excitement that called for immediate action. Still had they enough coolness left to per-ceive the necessity of deliberation before taking any steps. They saw the mistake they had committed, in relaxing their watchfulness. Their reliance upon the Texan treaty-with the fact of no Indians having been seen or heard of on the wav-had lulled them into a security which, if false, might cost them their lives.

All within the room remembered that at that hour no sentinels were set, not even the ordinary horse-guard. If the Indians intended attack, it might be made at any

Still, it was not likely that the small band seen by Hawkins and Tucker would be bold enough to make an assault on the set-

The hunters had counted in all twentyone men. There were nearly three times this number of the colonists capable of bearing arms. Even the boys, like all backwoods youth, could use the rifle-or knife, f it came to close quarters. After all there need be no uneasiness; they could not

have much to fear. Reflecting in this fashion contributed to allay their apprehensions, though it did not altogether remove them. Enough remained to prevent them from resuming their seats around the dinner-table. They did not think of such a thing. On the contrary, they resolved on at once taking precautionary measures. They would collect a patrol, and throw out sentries around both the Mission building and the outlying collection of humbler dwellings, in which most of the

colonists were lodged. They only returned to the table to take another drink, and then "To arms!"

They had faced toward it—some to quaff off their already half-emptied glasses, others to refill them—when the door of the diningroom was again thrown open; this time with a hurried violence that caused all of them to start as if a bombshell had rolled into the room. On facing round, they saw the negro boy again entering, the same who had reported the absence of Fernand. Fear was depicted in his face, and wild terror gleamed from his eyes; the latter so awry in their sockets that little else than their whites could be seen.

Their own alarm was not much less than his on hearing what he had to say. His words were:

"Oh, Mass' Armstrong! Oh, Mass' Looey! De place am full ob Indyin sabba-ges! Dey've come up de garden, troo back passage. Dar outside, in de coatyard, more n a t'ousan' ob um!"

At the dread tidings glasses dropped from the hands that held them; most of them flung down in fury. As one man, all rushed toward the door.

It was standing ajar, as the darkey in his scare had left it. It was not their intention to shut it, but to rush outside for the protection of those dear to them.

Before they could reach the door they had confirmation of the negro's words-too full. They saw faces hideous with a be-smearing of red paint, heads horrid with coal-black shaggy hair, and plumes bristling above them.

But a glimpse had they of these, dimly visible in the obscurity outside. Though short it was terrible; like a transitory tableau in some fearful drama, or a glance into hell itself. The sight brought them to a stand; though

only for an instant. Then they dashed on toward the doorway, regardless of what awaited them beyond. They were not permitted to get outside. Before they had reached it the door was swung to, striking the lintels with a loud

This sound was quickly followed by another, that of a key turning in its lock and shooting a heavy bolt into its keeper. They were shut in!

> CHAPTER LIX. INSIDE.

No pen could depict what took place in the refectory of the ancient Mission when its door was locked on Colonel Armstrong and his guests, and they saw themselves shut in. Not only shut in, but helplessly, hopelessly imprisoned.

A glance around the room convinced

them of this. There was but one way of egress—the doorway leading into the corridor that skirted the patio, or central court of the quadrangle. This door resembled that of a jail, massive, made of thick oaken planks, further strengthened by transverse cleets and clasps of iron. An emormous old-fashioned lock, with a strong bolt, gave it security when shut—as it now was. Of windows there were two, facing toward the outside of the building; but both small, as if only intended to give light to a cloister. They were far above the level of the floor: and further protected, against either egress or ingress, by vertical iron bars, so thick as to defy the file of either jail-breaker or burglar. The padres, while dining, did not much affect the light of the sun. More pleasing to them to see their refectory table garnished with grand wax candles, abstracted from the ceremonials of the church; more agreeable to think that, while quaffing and laughing, no eye of novice could see, nor ear hear them.

On the door being closed, Colonel Arm-trong and his fellow-colonists did not at first fully realize the desperateness of their situation. It was only after scanning the coom around, and perceiving the impossibility of getting out, that this became clear. Then the scene of confusion, already wild, was followed by a pause, in which intense emotions and heartfelt passions had fullest play. As if from one throat pealed a simultaneous shout. It was a cry of rage, intoned with an accent of distress, as they thought of the dear ones outside; there at no great distance, but separated from them, and as truly beyond reach of their protec-

tion as if twenty miles lay between! Colonel Armstrong thought of his daughters, Dupre of his fiancee, the young surgeon of her sister, the others of wives and children. All more ordess had their share in the anguish of the hour.

For some moments they stood as if paralyzed, gazing in one another's faces in dumb despair. Then anger again roused them to energy, though they knew not how to di-

The hunter Hawkins, a man of herculean strength, flung himself against the door and butted it with his shoulder-blades, in hope of heaving it from its hinges. Vain hope! It resisted all his efforts, several times re

Others joined with him; and several, uniting their strength, attempted to burst

the door open. Their efforts were idle. It hinged to the inner side, and could not be forced-unless along with its posts and lintels. These were as firm as the stone wall in which they were set, and defied all efforts to dis-lodge them. The massive wood-work strengthened with iron cleets, would have stood firm against the shock of a battering Easier for them to have crevassed the wall, and through it obtained egress.

Finding the door could not be forced. they gave it up in despair. The windows were next attempted; both simultaneously, but with like result. In planning their Mission building the monks

and taken care that it should be made safe ainst assault from the outside. The window bars were as thick as a jail grating and, though time and rust had somewhat weakened them, they were yet strong enough to sustain the shock of a man's houlder, or any pull from the stoutest pair

For some minutes the imprisoned men kept shaking and tugging at them; some irresolutely rushing across the room from door to windows, and back again; others confusedly groping around the walls in search of any implement that might help in gaining them an exit. None such could be found. There was nothing in the refectory except a large dining-table and a set of light cane chairs, all useless for the purpose re-

They searched, groping in darkness. For, on finding themselves shut in, they had blown out the candles. They had done it as a precautionary measure; expecting every moment to be shot at from the out

the dinner knives had been removed, along with the table-cloth; and the only weapons they might make available were bottles and

decanters!

More than all did they regret being without guns or pistols. Not that with either they could have done aught to injure the enemy that had so cunningly placed them hors de combat. But shots fired—even a single one—might have been heard at the rancheria, given warning of the attack, and brought their follows closies to the resum

brought their fellow-colonists to the rescue.

After failing in their attempts to force a way out, they remained for a time silent, listening acutely. No report of guns, or other firearms, reached them. Instead they heard shouts, which they could distinguish as the cries of the household servants—all negroes, mulattoes, or quadroons. No voice of white man could be recognized mingling in the meles in the melee.

And there was no savage yell; such as is the mere was no savage yen; such as is usually raised by Indians, and kept up by them, while engaged in action either war-like or predatory. Alone could be heard the voices of the domestics; these in a confused fracas that spoke of fear. At intervals came a cry that had the accent of agony. Then greening and meaning heard agony. Then groaning and moaning, heard only for a short while, and as if suddenly and forcibly silenced. After that all sounds ceased; and outside was silence, too like that of death!

CHAPTER LX.

OUTSIDE. While the men shut up in the Mission dining-room were madly struggling to get out of it, other men were enacting a tragedy in its courtyard, terrible as any ever repre-

sented on the stage of a theater.

They were the Indians, whom Dupre's traitorous servant had guided upon the

After entering the garden and making seizure of the two girls, they had continued on for the house—the half-blood still at

their head. Thus conducted, by one who well knew the way, they were enabled to pass through the inclosure at the back, and reach the patio without being observed. They had entered the inner court before any of the servants saw them. When seen, the alarm was instantly raised, but too late. The negro lad, still searching for Fernand, was the first to perceive their approach. With a cry of terror he had rushed back to the

cry of terror he had rushed back to the room, the savages close following at his heels. It was then they appeared outside the door, soon after shut by themselves.

That their design was at first only robbery, and not red murder, might appear from their way of setting about their work. Inspired by hatred to the pale-faces—or any purpose of retaliatory vengeance—their behavior would have been different. Instead of locking the door, and leaving Colonel Armstrong and his friends unmolested, they would have shot down, tomahawked, and would have shot down, tomahawked, and scalped every one of them. For they could easily have done this, on the spot, and at the instant. Even after closing the door they could have done it. They carried arms of almost every kind used for offense-guns, pistols, spears, tomahawks, and knives. By firing through the windows, they would have had no difficulty in killing every man inside the room, some within reach of spear-

That they refrained from taking this advantage may appear strange; as it did to the men who might have been made victims then, every one of them expecting it.

For thus abstaining from slaughter they had a motive. It had nothing to do with humanity. They did not shoot down the white men, simply because the shots would make too much noise. The reports of their guns might be heard by other white men, who would soon be upon them - soon enough to frustrate their design.

Clearly from the way they were acting their aim was plunder, not murder; and they did not particularly wish to kill the white men, if it could be conveniently

They were no common burglars, however, Their appearance showed them prepared for any thing; and their deeds soon proved it Almost on the instant of entering the court yard, they had commenced shedding blood. It was the blood of the poor slaves, who, a first sight of the savages, rushed distractedly around, giving utterance to the wildest shrieks. It was necessary they should be In an instant, and almost simultaneously, their cries were stifled by the stroke of a tomahawk, the thrust of a spear, or the stab of a knife.

The scene resembled a saturnalia of demons-demons doing murder! Though they made not the slightest resist ance, the poor creatures were ruthlessly stricken down, and soon their bodies lay

lifeless along the pavement.

The killing them was a mere measure of precaution, to hinder their cries from being heard by the colonists outside. A few escaped by rushing into rooms and barricading the doors. A few others also sought

concealment in obscure corners, which the savages had not time to explore. None permitted to pass outside While the work of slaughter was going on, a select party was otherwise occupied It was composed of five or six savages, their gigantic chief conspicuous in the midst; the

half-blood also among them. It was they who had closed the dining-room door. Having placed sentries at it, they rushed across the court toward another door; that of a room that also opened into the corridor in one of its corners. It was the chamber which the young planter Dupre had chosen as his sleeping-room; where ne also kept the account-books belonging to his grand slave establishment, along with his treasure. There were deposited th containing his cash-fifty thousand dollars

At the head of the party approaching it was Fernand. Something in his hand could be seen glancing under the light of the moon. It was a key. Soon after it was inserted into its lock. The door flew open, and the half-blood entered, closely followed by the others. All went in with an eagerness telling that they knew of the treasure

After a short while they came out again, each bearing in his arms a little barrel, of weight almost sufficient to test his

Laying these down, they re-entered the room, and soon returned similarly loaded. And again they went inside and brought forth other barrels, until nearly twenty were exposed upon the pavement. By this the slaughter of the servants had

side.

They had no firearms themselves; neither guns, pistols, nor arms of any kind. Even

the same time, the sentries left to guard the two doors were called away, and the whole band became clustered around the barrels

like vultures around a carcass.

Some words were spoken in undertone.
Then each, laying hold of a keg—there was one each for all—lifted it from the ground and carried it off out of the courtyard. Silently, and in single file, they passed across the outside inclosure, on into the garden, and out through the gap by which

they had gone in Near by stood their horses, tied to trees, and well concealed within shadow. They were still under saddle, with the bridles

It took but little time to "unhitch" them from the twigs to which they were attached. Each man did this for his own, Then each mounted, after balancing the ponder-ous little barrel upon the saddle-croup, and there making it fast with his lazo.

When all were on horseback they moved silently but rapidly away; the half-blood going with them. He, too, had now a horse, the best in the troop; stolen from the stable of his betrayed

> CHAPTER LXI. SHOUTS FOR SUCCOR.

MEANWHILE, the struggle going on inside the room was like that of tigers newly en-caged. If not so tragical as the scene out-side, it was equally earnest and agonizing.

It continued through all the time the red robbers were engaged in seizing upon the silver, and for some minutes after. Then the wilder excitement began to subside throes of angry passion giving place to feel-ings that bordered on despair. For their apprehensions remained with all their keen

gony.

If the reaction produced despairing thoughts, it also brought calmer reflections. First among these was the wonder why the savages had made no attempt to destroy them, and were contented with simply shut-

ting them up?
They wondered, also, at not having heard shots, and only shouts which they could tell came from the colored servants. The voice of the Ethiopian-negro or mulatto-is easily distinguished from that of his white masters. Not a cry of Indian intonation had reached their ears; no yell; nothing that resembled a war-whoop of Coman-

What could this mean—unusual in an Indian attack, a thing never before heard of? Who could explain the strange behavior of the assailants?

One suggested that the whole affair might be a travestie—a freak of some of the younger and more foolish of the colonist fraternity. Unlikely as this was, the idea was for a moment entertained—hope, like

the drowning man, catching at a straw.

Only for a moment. The affair was too serious, affecting persons of too much importance. No one would dare attempt such a practical joke upon the stern old soldier Armstrong, or the proud young planter Dupre. They were not to be so

Besides, there had been the shrieks of the colored domestics: distinctly heard, and in tones betokening terror as well as anguish. There had been groans mingled with them. These could not have come from a mere fright, got up by a mad frolic of merry-

If this, it should be over, and the door would have been opened. Silence reigned outside, and still it was shut and locked. This would not be the way to terminate a

No; the revelry could not be of this kind: and they who thought of it gave up the idea

almost as soon as it was suggested.

If the silence hitherto observed by the savages themselves had mystified the men inside the room, that succeeding was equally mysterious. There was now nor shout nor shriek, groan nor moan, not so much as a murmur

The profound stillness was soon more than mysterious; it became positively op-

What had occurred outside? What been done? Had the domestics been all killed massacred, as it were, in a moment? And had their fellow-colonists shared the same

These were the questions mutually exchanged, quickly, and with quivering lips.

No one made attempt to answer them,

All were alike under a spell of mystified apprehension; some enfeebled by it; others peechless from the impatient, passionate nger still struggling within their breasts.

To the nine men shut up within the refecory of the old San Saba Mission-housethere were nine of them in all—it was a irksome hour-perhaps the saddest and most irksome any of them had ever experienced.

To Armstrong, Dupre, and the others who had relatives, dear ones, exposed outside, it was agony indescribable, almost unendurable. The prisoners of Cawnpore, or the famed Black Hole of Calcutta, could not have suffered greater.

A moment of it was enough to drive them mad; and no doubt, continued, it would

They did not bear it in silence; or only for a short time. Dire passion again got the better of them; and they gave way to cries and angry ejaculations, uttered without any definite aim or purpose.

A thought, however, promising practical results, occurred to the hunter, Hawkins. In the midst of the second scene of excitement he sprung upon the sill of a window and, with jaws pressed close against the iron bars, his lips protruded beyond them. e set up a series of shouts—calling for He continued the cries regardle the danger of being shot or speared by the savages, still supposed to be outside was done in the hope of being heard by the colonists residing in the rancheria. After all but a faint one. The hour was late; the all but a faint one. The hour was late people, fatigued by the toils of the plowing and cotton-planting, would be all abed; perhaps also asleep.

hood of their hearing him. The adobe huts were far off-nearly half a mile; and on the opposite side to that overlooked by the

efectory windows.

Besides, a grove of timber intervened; heavy timber, the trees standing close, with their branches interlocking, and loaded with thick foliage. It was a vegetable curtain, through which sound could not possibly penetrate, any more than through the case mate of a fortress or the massive walls of a

hooting of owls, the rustling of foliage; at the time stirred by a stiff breeze. There was all this to discourage Hawkins and his fellow-prisoners. The others more than him; for the hunter had a knowledge not shared by them. He knew that Cris Tucker would not be asleep, unless it was the sleep of death. If his comrade still lived,

there was a hope of his hearing him.

Relying on it, he continued his cries for help, interlarding them with exclamations that in a strictly Puritanical country would be called curses.

CHAPTER LXII.

IN SEARCH OF A COMRADE.

On parting from his comrade, Cris Tucker, Hawkins had left the latter in a tent which the two hunters inhabited, there being no house-room for them among the walled dwellings. This tent they had pitched on the edge of the grove between the Mission building and the collection of adobe huts, at about a like distance from each.

The old hunter, at leaving his younger associate behind, had promised soon to be back. There was a matter of supper about to be brought on, consisting of a fine turkey they had shot that day, and Cris was engaged in roasting it over a fire kindled beside their little shieling of canvas.

As Hawkins left, the bird was almost

ready to be removed from the spit, hence

his promise of a speedy return.

Of course, Tucker knew the errand that was taking him to the "big house," as the Mission building had come to be called by the colonists.

The turkey, a fat young "gobbler," running grease out of every pore, and causing the fire to blaze up around it, was soon after "done brown." Perceiving this, Tucker carried the bird inside the tent and dished it upon the table, the dish being a platter of split cottonwood, rudely whittled into shape. The table itself was only a tree stump, smoothed horizontally at the top. Over it the tent had been erected.

For a time the turkey lay smoking, its cook having taken a seat beside it, to wait

cook having taken a seat beside it, to wait for the coming back of his comrade.

At first the position was pleasant enough. The savory odor that pervaded the tent gave promise of an enjoyable supper, soon to be eaten. It was keenly appetizing, though Cris Tucker's appetite did not need this. It was well whetted without; for neither he nor Hawkins had eaten any thing since making their midday meal on the upper plain, where they saw the Indians riding plain, where they saw the Indians riding past. The scare that sight had given them, oupled with their haste to get home, hindered them from since touching food; and they had but reached their tent and made so much progress in preparing supper, when Hawkins started off for the big house. The report he had to deliver was too im-

portant to brook longer delay. As time passed and he did not return, Tucker's position, at first pleasant, soon became unendurable. The turkey was be-coming cold. The rich aroma, that had set his appetite to a still keener edge, was getting dissipated, dying away, wasting itself on the desert air. He could not stand it any longer. He would rather not eat his supper alone, though there could be no bad manners in his doing so. If his comrade did not choose to keep faith with him and come back in time, he did not deserve to be treated otherwise than with like discourtesy. Perhaps Hawkins was enjoying himself up at the house—perhaps having a drink, or it might be two; indulging in a glass of hot whisky toddy? And for that he, Cris Tucker, must eat his turkey cold?

These reflections led to immediate action. After making them the young hunter drew his knife out of its sheath, seized the bird by the legs, and cut a big slice from its breast.

This eaten, another slice was severed and soon also swallowed. Then, carrying off one of the great thighs, he soon polished it to the semblance of a drumstick.

A wing was next attacked and clean scraped, when the hunter, now no longer hungry, completed his repast by chawing up the gizzard, and also the liver, a tit-bit apon the prairies, as in a pate de foies gras de

After this feat of gormandizing, Cris Tucker lit his pipe, and, seated beside the mangled remains of the meleagris, commenced smoking.

For a time the inhaled nicotine held him tranquil, though not without wonder why his comrade was so late in putting in an appearance. When nearly an hour had elapsed, his wonder began to take the shape of apprehension. Not strange it should, considering the reason for his being left

onger stay in the tent. He would go up to the house and for himself find out what was detaining Hawkins Donning his skin cap, and stepping out

It soon after became so keen, he could no

into the open air, he set his face for the Mission building. Less than ten minutes' quick walking brought him before its walls, at the main

front entrance. There, for a moment, he paused, in some surprise at the silence that surrounded the place. It was profound, to a degree somewhat suspicious, almost unnatural. There were no lights shining through the windows,

though this did not mean much. Cris Tucker knew that most of the eyes of the old monkish mansion looked inward. Like those of the monks themselves, they shunned being stared at.

For some moments he remained in front of the massive pile, looking at it and listening. He could hear sounds, but only the nocturnal voices of the southern forest. These were nothing.

Soon amid them he heard, or fancied, another sound—that of a human voice. appeared to be sent forth in a shout, as if calling for help. But it was faint, and seemingly far distant. He might be mis-

Why should he stand conjecturing? There was no reason for his remaining long. er outside the house. Though not on terms of social equality with those who occupied t, under the circumstances he could not be

eemed an intruder With no fear of being so considered, he entered the arched portal, passed under the shadowed saguan, and once more emerged

into moonlight within the patio. On entering the courtyard, Cris Tucker stood aghast. He there saw a sight that He there saw a sight that caused his hair to creep up, almost raising the cap from his head. Down into the hollow quadrangle, inclosed on every side, except that toward heaven, the moonbeams were falling in full effulgence. By their light he saw men lying along the flagged pavement in every possible position, among

them some forms whose drapery told them to be women. They were of black, brown, or yellow complexion. And on all, either around the throat, on the skull, or upon the breast, there was a hue horridly contrasting —a tint of crimson that resembled blood.

It was blood, fast coagulating under the cold moonlight. It was already darkened,

almost to the color of ink.

The hunter turned faint, almost sick, as he stood contemplating the hecatomb of corpses. It was a spectacle far more fearful than any ever witnessed upon a battle-field. There men lie in death, from wounds given and received under the grand, though de-lusive, idea of glory. These Cris Tucker saw must have come from the red hand of

(To be continued—Commenced in No. 97.)

The Red Mazeppa:

THE MADMAN OF THE PLAINS. A STRANGE STORY OF THE TEXAN FRONTIER!

THE RIGHT OF DRAMATIZATION RESERVED.

BY ALBERT W. AIKEN, AUTHOR OF "OVERLAND KIT," "WOLF DEMON," "ACE OF SPADES," "WITCHES OF NEW YORK," ETC.

> CHAPTER XXXV. A PAIR OF KNAVES.

A HORSEMAN riding rapidly toward the hacienda of Bandera by the red light of the dying sun; the time, the afternoon of the ollowing day to the one in which the interview between the wily adventurer and stolid half-breed had taken place.

The horseman was Lope, the Panther. The expression upon the face of the adventurer was not a pleasant one; his lips were shut firmly together, and a stern and troubled glare shot from his dark eyes.

The foam gathered about his animal's muzzle, and the heaving flanks told that the rider had spared neither whip nor spur.

"Push on, you brute!" muttered the adventurer unging on the horse with hand

venturer, urging on the horse with hand and heel; "night will catch us before we reach the hacienda of our *dear* friend, Senor Ponce de Bandera," and the Mexican laugh-ed bitterly. "By the Virgin! I believe that ronce de bandera, and the mexican laugh-ed bitterly. "By the Virgin! I believe that this dog of a don will get the best of the struggle, after all. Santa Maria! I'll make a gallant fight for it, though. Has age soddened my brain, or have my wits gone wool-gathering since I have ridden northward to the frontier? I am not used to being beaten and baffled at every turn. One point of the game alone have I gained—the papers; they are mine, but of little use un-less I find the heir. This brainless idiot of a herdsman to refuse the golden fortune which my hand offered him; bah! some men are born without brains.

Onward galloped the Mexican; swiftly, bitter thoughts swept across his brain.

The sun sunk lower and lower; the far western horizon line hid half its beams, and the new moon, the vestal orb, rose slowly in

You dull-paced brute, brother to a snail, will you never get me there?" and the adventurer gored the sides of the poor beast

The horse was exerting himself to his ut-most already, and neither the flerce words of his rider nor the forcible language of the spur-points caused him to increase his

Soon, above the line of the flat prairie, rose the dark walls of Bandera, frowning on the gentle river and the still prairie like some grim fortalice of the far-off olden

The adventurer gave a hoarse shout of joy as he beheld the home of the man whom he sought—that home which he was striving to

sought—that home which he was striving to wrest from the grasp of its owner.

"At last!" he cried, a grim smile on his dark face. "Good! I am all impatience for the interview. A bold game I play. Bandera will be slightly astonished at my sudden and unexpected reappearance, I ween. So much the better. Perhaps I may catch him off his guard? I fancy that this will be our last interview: something with will be our last interview; something with-in whispers me to that effect. If I do not succeed in breaking down his guard and reaching his heart with this attack, I'll e'en give up and seek for fortune elsewhere." A half-hour's ride more and Lope drew

rein before the gate of the hacienda.

Before he could dismount, a dozen or more of herdsmen rushed from the gate and surrounded him.

The first thought of the adventurer was that the servants had been instigated by their master to attack him; but, on a second glance, he saw nothing but good-will written in the faces of those who surrounded

'Dismount, senor!" cried one of the herdsmen, seizing the bridle of the horse.

"Hold his stirrup, Jose!" cried a second.

"Lean upon my shoulder, senor!" exclaimed a third, proffering his assistance.

"What the devil does all this mean?"

questioned Lope, of himself, in utter aston-"Pray dismount, senor," said the herds-

man who seemed to hold command over the others, noticing the hesitation of the rider; "our master is at home and waiting to receive you.' Lope made a grimace of astonishment

he guessed the truth; the herdsmen had mistaken him for some one else. He resolved to humor the mistake. "It's a deuced good joke, in faith, to be conducted with all the honors to Bandera," he muttered, to himself, as he dismounted assisted by a half-score of willing hands. "I wonder how the worthy don will enjoy

it?" and Lope chuckled to himself at the Your master is waiting to receive me, then?" the adventurer questioned, adjusting his serape gracefully over the shoulder.

Yes, senor, we have been in readiness to receive you since early morning," the herds-

"Oh, it's very evident that there is some mistake here," Lope said, to himself. "Our master was very careful to instruct us to receive you with all attention," the herdsman added.

"Oh, yes, senor!" cried the herdsmen, in

'If Bandera's temper is like mine he'll break some of these fellows' heads for this

Lope muttered, laughing in his "This way, senor!" cried the chief herdsman, marshaling the way into the hacienda.

"I follow you, friend," said Lope, with

graceful dignity.

paused suddenly, turned and addressed the adventurer who was close at his heels.
"The senor will pardon the question," he said, abruptly; "but, will the senor remain at the hacienda to-night?"

Lope looked astonished at the question. "No; I do not think that I shall remain," he replied, after a moment's pause.
"The senor will depart, then?"

That will be after nightfall?" "Yes." Lope was puzzled to understand the drift of the questions. "That is bad."

"Bad?" exclaimed the adventurer, in astonishment.

Yes, because it is dangerous. "I do not understand you," Lope said, and the thought flashed across his mind that he really stood in more danger when within Bandera's hacienda than in any other spot in the known world.
"Do you see that there?" and the herds-

man pointed to the sky as he asked the ques-The adventurer looked up at the sky, but

saw nothing worthy of remark.
"Well?" he said, perplexed.
"Don't you see it?" asked the herdsman,

in astonishment.
"No; I don't see any thing but the sky."
"Not the moon?"
"Yes, of course I see the moon," Lope replied, considerably astonished; "but what

"The senor must be a stranger to this part of the country?" the herdsman said.

"I am, but I freely confess that I do not see that yonder moon which shines here is any different from the moon I have seen elsewhere," Lope observed, beginning to be lieve that he was dealing with a number of idiots, for he had noticed the herdsmen had been exchanging glances of wonder.

"Then you don't know any thing about this moon?" the herdsman said. "How the devil should I know any thing about the moon?" Lope cried, impatiently. "I am not a star-gazer, and this moon looks to me exactly like every other moon of the same shape and size that I have seen else-

Why, it's the same moon, of course,' the herdsman said, slowly.
"Then, why call my attention to it?"

"Because, it is the Mexican Moon," said the herdsman, in a tone of awe.
"Shining over Mexico it naturally becomes the Mexican Moon," the adventurer

replied, tranquilly. Yes, but it is only the Mexican Moon

What is it any other month?" "Why, nothing but a common moon

Lope laughed at the conceit.
"So this month it is the Mexican Moon, and the Mexican moon is different from the ommon moon

"Yes," and all the herdsmen assented.
"Will you have the kindness to explain the difference, and also why it is termed the Mexican Moon?" Lope asked, his curiosity

"Because it is the dangerous moon."
"Dangerous?" cried the adventurer, in

Yes, for when this moon rises the Indians mount their mustangs and ride upon the war-path against the frontier settle-

Oh, I understand now!" Lope exclaim-"If I leave the hacienda after dark, I am liable to fall in with some of these red warriors, for this is the frontier."

'Yes, that is it," the herdsman replied. "There is great danger, for, within the last twenty-four hours, the Comanches, decked in their war-paint, have been seen on the prairie within thirty miles of us here." "Thanks for your warning," Lope said, acefully. "I shall be prepared."
"Yes, senor."

And conducted by the herdsman, the adventurer entered the house

gracefully.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND. THE adventurer inwardly laughed as he was conducted in state through the ha-

"Voto-a-brios!" he muttered to himself; "this is the richest joke that I have ever heard of. What will Bandera say when he discovers who his visitor is?" The little procession reached the door of

grand chamber of the hacienda. The herdsman threw open the door widely, and, with a profound bow, announced:
"Senor Don Lope, the Panther!" The adventurer started in amazement:

sound of his name alarmed him. He had thought his ceremonious recep-tion a mistake—that he had been taken for another-but now it was evident that it was for him that the herdsmen had waited. That he had been led into a trap was his

first thought. He glanced around him, but saw only smiling faces. Within the apartment, by the center-table, sat Bandera, the usual cold and calm look

upon his iron features. "What the devil does all this mean?" questioned the adventurer, between his

"Enter, senor," said Bandera, with courty politeness, noticing the hesitation of the

With a look of confidence upon his face, which the thoughts running through his brain belied, Lope entered the room. The herdsmen discreetly remained upon

the threshold. "Bring us candles, Pedro, and then withdraw," Bandera said.
The herdsmen withdrew.

master of the hacienda observed, a peculiar look upon his stern face.

'I have waited long for you, senor," the

"Waited for me?" the adventurer questioned, in some little surprise.
"Yes, I felt sure that you would come to-day." "Now, how the deuce did he guess that?"

Lope muttered, to himself, in wonder. Pedro entered with lighted candles, placed them upon the center-table and then left

"You expected me?" the adventurer said.
"Oh, yes; my servants have been in waiting for you at the gate since early

The adventurer could not understand it; he cast a rapid glance around him, but saw no sign of danger.

Bandera noted the look.

'Do not be alarmed; there is no danger." Will you allow me a question?"

How did you know that I was coming?" "You really must excuse my answering that," Bandera replied, coldly. "But, one The herdsman got within the arch, then thing I can tell you, and that is, that I not

only knew of your coming, but I also know what you come to say."

Lope looked at Bandera for a moment in

astonishment. "Do you doubt the truth of my words?" Bandera said. "I will give you proof then. You think that you have discovered one of the lost children of my brother Juan—one of the heirs to this estate of Bandera—and you have come to me to bargain for silence

on your part. Am I not right?" Lope was thoroughly astonished, and his keen wits instantly guessed that, if Bandera knew of his discovery of the heir, he also knew of his failure to use that heir as his

"Senor, you are right," he said, gracefully; he felt that he was beaten, but determined not to allow Bandera to enjoy a tri-I know, also, that the heir does not care

to claim his estate, and refused to make any bargain with you."
Then, suddenly, into the mind of the ad-

venturer flashed the thought of the little Mexican, Diego, the keeper of the wine-shop. He knew now where Bandera had procured his information.
"You have come to attempt to frighten

me into buying you from making use of your knowledge?" Bandera continued. "I suppose that you already see that your plan

"You are quite right, senor," Lope replied, with perfect composure. "I confess that in this matter you have beaten me."
"And in this matter alone?" Bandera questioned, shrewdly.

A shade of annoyance passed across the face of the Panther.
"Have you not been also defeated in your quest for the other heir, the girl?" said Bandera, finding that Lope did not reply.

You are always so correct that it would be folly for me to attempt to dispute your words," the Panther replied, sneeringly, thus attempting to hide the vexation which

"Shall I tell you what you have been doing this morning?" questioned Bandera, suddenly. "Just as you like," answered the adven-

turer, carelessly.
"You rode this morning to the Missionpriest, Father Philip; you questioned him regarding a certain child that you gave unto his care years ago."
"Did I?" and the adventurer smiled,

with an air of perfect composure.

"Yes, and you found that the child had suddenly and mysteriously disappeared. Am I still correct?

Am I still correct?"

"Oh; gospel truth!" exclaimed Lope.

"In this struggle of wits between us, one point alone have you gained; the leaden casket with the precious papers which prove the right of the heirs of Bandera to their vast estate, is in your hands; but, even you, yourself, must admit that, unless you can find the heirs the papers are are of little. find the heirs, the papers are are of little

"Well, now, I am sorry that you think so, for I was just going to offer to sell them to you," Lope said, carelessly.

"I do not think that I care to buy them,"

Bandera observed, coldly. "Don't push a man too hard. I am at the wall; don't crush my flesh against the stones," the adventurer said, earnestly, his tone a strange contrast to his former flip-

"Good! now you talk sense; a man is never so wise as when he confesses that he is beaten." 'Exactly; you will buy the papers then?"

Lope said, insinuatingly. "Of course, as one heir is dead, and the other is careless of the golden future that I could give to asked Bandera, of Pedro, the herdsman." him, the papers are of no particular value to me. What will you give me for them a hundred ounces?"

"A hundred devils!" cried Bandera, in astonishment, No; I don't want a hundred devils,' replied the adventurer; "they are of no use whatever to me. You think that a

hundred ounces is too high a price?"
"Are you mad?" questioned Bandera, in "Oh, no! Of course I shall try and get

as high a price as possible."
"I simply buy them out of charity—" "Yes, as we would throw a bone to quiet a snarling dog, eh?" questioned the adven-

"That is something like it," Bandera replied.

"What will you give, then?"
"A dozen gold pieces."
"A small sum for the papers which sway the destiny of a thousand broad acres, said Lope, reflectively.

"Accept or decline; it is your privilege," remarked Bandera, tersely.
"Well, then, I decline," the Panther said,

You decline!" Bandera exclaimed, in astonishment.

"And why—your reason?"
"The price is altogether too low."
"Too low!" exclaimed Bandera, in contempt, echoing the words of the other. Yes, altogether too low for such valu-

"The papers are of no value."
"Why do you wish to buy them, then?" eried the Panther, quickly.

Bandera shut his lips together, and there was an angry glare in his dark eyes.

"You are so wise—so crafty—so superior in wit to the humble individual called Lope the Panther, that he bows humbly to your judgment. You give me golden ounces out of charity—bah! Next you will turn and caress the snake that bites you. The papers are of value, else you would not want them. The contest is not ended yet. So far you have the best of it, but my turn may come."

Bandera regarded the adventurer for a

"You have had your word, now listen to mine," he said, sternly. "You have been received here with all honors—a jest of mine; I sometimes jest; I wished you to taste of honors and of homage for once in your vagabond life. I raised you up that your fall might be the greater; and now de-part. From this time forth my spies will track your steps; I will discover where you have hidden the leaden casket, and then wrest it from you, despite your efforts."
"I defy you!" cried the Panther, in rage
"I have the papers, I will find the heir.

She lives—I am sure of it!"
"Begone!" exclaimed Bandera, sternly The door was flung violently open and a

herdsman, white with terror, rushed into the room. "Oh, senor, they come!" he gasped, in broken accents.
"Who?" questioned the master of the

"The red devils-the Comanches!"

CHAPTER XXXVII. THE INDIAN'S OFFER.

BOTH Bandera and the Panther started in surprise. "The Comanches!-where?" cried the master of the hacienda.

"Here—right at our gates—all in war-paint," answered the herdsman.
"It can not be!" Bandera exclaimed, in "It is the truth, senor. Pedro and I were just at the gate when the red devils rode up. We closed the gate and gave the

alarm. " Did they offer to attack you?" "No, senor; but we were too quick for

them. " Voto! it seems that I must remain under your roof, whether or no," the Panther said, with a smile.

"If the Indians have really surrounded us, your arm will be of service in the de-

"Command me, senor," the adventurer said, with a graceful bow.
"I'll to the gate and see for myself. I can hardly believe that we are surrounded by them?" by them,"

"Better go on the roof, senor; the moon is up, and by its light you can plainly see the red devils," suggested the herdsman.
The three proceeded at once to the roof. As the herdsman had said, the moon was up, and by its faint light the watchers could discern groups of dark figures on the

prairie, a hundred yards or more from the The faint light of the moon was reflected back by the steel lance-heads which glittered in the center of the masses of dark forms. A single glance convinced Bandera that the herdsman was right; the hacienda was

surrounded by the wild prairie warriors. "They mean mischief," observed the Panther, standing by Bandera's side. "I do not understand their strange way of acting," Bandera said, thoughtfully. "It is contrary to their custom thus to beleaguer

"As yet they have shown no sign that their intentions are warlike," Pedro, the herdsman, remarked.

"They do not come on a peaceful quest," Bandera said, as he noted the lance-heads shining silver in the moonlight. Then from one of the dark groups a single warrior detached himself. Boldly he spurred his mustang right under the walls

of the hacienda. A tall and muscular warrior he was, fan-cifully decked in the war-paint.

He checked his horse suddenly and gazed upward at the little group assembled on the flat roof of the hacienda.

"Wah! the red chief would speak with his white brothers," the Comanche said. "Let the chief speak," responded Ban-

dera.
"The Comanche warrior would speak with the white chief, Bandera, in his wig-

"And why is that necessary?" asked Bandera. "The chief has arms in his hands; we do not talk with weapons." With a single motion the Comanche drove his sharp lance into the prairie, the point downward; the keen-edged knife from his girdle followed the lance. Then the warrior held up both his hands to signify that he was unarmed. "See! the warrior has no weapon; he

comes like the dove, not like the eagle. Let the great chief open his doors, that the Comanche warrior may speak with him,

"No, senor; the White Mustang always rides a white horse; besides, he is much A little knot of herdsmen with muskets in their hands were clustered together on

Bandera remained silent for a moment in thought; his eyes noted the armed men. "I will hear what the savage has to say," he said at length. "Keep watch with your men, and at the slightest sign of treachery

fire upon them." Then Bandera addressed the chief, who sat his horse, motionless as a statue. "I will listen to what my brother has to

'It is good," said the Indian, laconically. Bandera descended to the gateway, followed by the Panther. The Indian dismounted, fastened his mustang to the lance sticking in the ground, and

stalked to the gate of the hacienda. The gate swung upon its hinges and the chief entered. The gate was instantly closed and barred behind him, but the stolid savage apparently took no heed of the fact that he was virtually a prisoner in the

hands of the whites. "Let my red brother follow me."
Bandera led the way to the grand cham ber of the hacienda; the Indian followed without a word; the adventurer and a cou-

ple of herdsmen brought up the rear.
"Let my brother speak," Bandera said, as he halted in the center of the room, turn-

ed and faced the Indian.
"The White Mustang is the great chief
of the Comanche nation," began the warrior. "My brother is not the White Mustang," interrupted Bandera.

"When the white chief goes on the top of his big lodge again, let him look to the south by the river—let him rest his eyes on the warrior who rides a white mustang, and he will see the great chief of the Comanche

"And my brother-how is he called?"

"Ah Ah-hu-la is a great chief," replied the savage, sententiously; "he comes alone into the lodge of the white-skin with nothing but his bare hands." The red warrior has nothing to fear,'

Bandera said. "The red chief never knew what fear was!" exclaimed the Indian, proudly.
"Let my brother speak and tell why the Comanches come with the night, and circle the hacienda of Bandera with their lances."

The White Mustang is the greatest chief in all the Comanche nation; a thousand warriors grasp their lances at his nod." "I have heard of the great Comanche chief; what does he desire of his white

"The wigwam of the White Mustang is empty; he wants a squaw to keep it warm."

Bandera started, bit his lip in anger and east a glance of fire at the Indian, but the stolid chief never heeded it. "The white chief has a singing-bird—the fairest in all the Mexican land; let her come and sing in the lodge of the great Comanche chief and there will be peace."

'Dog of a red-skin!" cried the father, in

wrath. "Sooner would I lay my child dead

before me with my own hand than give her to the embrace of a gory savage!"

The iron face of the Indian contracted as the hostile words fell upon his ears.

"Wah! it is good!" he said, slowly. "The white chief will not give his daughter to the

By my soul, but that you came here unarmed and trusting to my honor, I'd crush you to my feet like a poisonous reptile, for daring to make such an offer to me!" cried the enraged father.
"Squaws talk—warriors act," replied the

chief, tersely, a tinge of contempt in his tone. "The Comanche has spoken—has the white chief answered?" "Return to the White Mustang and tell him when the sun goes backward, then I will give my daughter to him!" cried Ban-

will give my daughter to him? Cried Bandera, contemptuously.

"It is good. Now the red chief will talk more. Let the white-skin prepare; the red warriors are around him. The Mexican Moon has risen; the red chiefs are in the saddle and they ride to death. The White Markers offer peace, but he can give were Mustang offers peace, but he can give war. The chief has said," and the Indian turned

The chief has said, and the upon his heel to depart.

"Let the Comanche braves butt their heads against my walls until they break!"

contemptuously. "With the said Bandera, contemptuously. "With the morning will come the white chiefs from Dhanis, and they will scatter the Coman-

ches as the panther scatters the antelopes." "When morning comes, not one stone vill remain upon another to tell where the lodges of the white chiefs once stood by the river; the scalp-locks will hang at the gir-dles of the red chiefs, and the bones of the white chiefs will whiten on the prairie." With a slow and solemn step the Indian

stalked away. The herdsmen opened the gate and the Indian disappeared in the gloom beyond caused by the shadow of the wall. "Had I not better ride to Dhanis and

bring assistance?" Bandera turned and beheld the strange herdsman. Juan, at his side. (To be continued—commenced in No. 102.)

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A MORAL LESSON.

BY JOE JOT. JR.

With rampant front, on you recumbent log, Ready to leap at any undue racket, Observe, my philosophic friend, that frog, Taking the sun upon his emerald jacket.

He does not toil, and neither does he spin, Yet Solomon in all his earthly glory Was not arrayed like—don't you see him grin? Indeed he's made me quite forget the story!

No vain ambition animates his days. Although from natural instinct he is frisky, Nor does he boast of his ancestral race, Nor revel in the vanities of whisky.

The pride of Fashion's fools he never knew; Content in his one suit of soft morocco, He does not swear as other people do, Nor his expressive lips stain with tobacco.

You'd give him credit for perceptions keen, And a good share of intellectual power, Brough at least not to be taken in. Or to seek shelter from a falling shower.

But stop, my philosophic friend who'd draw Distinctive lines with all in the frog's favor; Observe this hook, I put it near his jaw, With a red tag fixed to it without savor.

Observe the tickled twinkle of his eye! What pure credulity that grin expresses! No doubt he thinks it some new-fangled fly; Smells slowly of it and his fortune blesses. He fondly trusts his phrenologic bumps,
Thinks his eye's right and inwardly he giggles;
Worthy a better cause with zeal he jumps—
And see, how on my hook he writhes and
wriggles!

And now, to put a moral to this tale— There is no man, however blessed by nature, That will not find his wisdom sometimes fail, Whether he be a frog or fellow-creature.

Elroy Chase's "Man." A STORY OF BALTIMORE.

BY CAPT. CHARLES HOWARD.

"I THOUGHT our city journals were read by some people who wanted work; but it seems that they are not, for here my adver-tisement has headed the 'Wanted' column the American these three mornings, and not a soul has appeared. Something's wrong with the people. If I were in England, my office would have been besieged by a thousand people an hour after the first paper left the press. I guess I had best discontinue the advertisement, and hunt up

As the speaker finished, he replaced the

As the speaker finished, he replaced the long-nine between his teeth, and again his eyes fell upon the paper.

Elroy Chase was an Englishman, as his features would indicate. Reaching the Monumental City when property commanded low prices, he invested his cash in real estate, and a few years served to make him a comparatively wealthy man. But still he was not satisfied. Building after building he sold, for gold possessed wonderful beauty in his eyes, and at last, when derful beauty in his eyes, and at last, when we introduce him to the reader, but two stately structures, on Charles street—not the magnificent Charles street of to-day remained in his hands.

Having practiced before the bar in his native country, he pursued his profession in Baltimore, where he contrived to turn a few honest pennies, but the dishonest ones he gained were legion. Once he left Baltimore and sought his fortune in the old Bay State; but after a year he returned, and people once more beheld his "shingle" on Courtlandt street.

When he advertised for a man, it was in the early days of Baltimore newspapers, and when everybody who would toil found plenty of work; therefore, it is not surprising that no applicants called at his office.

A few minutes after the lawyer's audible soliloquy, he was startled by a knock at his "There's a polite ignoramus!" exclaimed the Englishman, as he bade the visitor en-

The door slowly opened, and a genuine Yankee, sporting a faded gingham umbrel-

la, stepped into Chase's sanctum.
"Good - mornin'," said the Aminadab Sleek-looking individual, executing a ludicrous bow to the Englishman, who regarded him with a faint smile. "Somewhat drizzly for May," and he glanced wistfully at the huge pitcher of punch that graced the table, as he seated himself in a chair unbid-"I've walked all the way from Camden street, an' my umbriller couldn't pre

vent the mist from gittin' into my bones. Yer hain't got any 'Saints' Rests' in this town, hev yeou? I looked everywhere for one; I wanted to git er bowl o' punch."

Elroy Chase acknowledged the hint, and invited the Yankee to help himself to the steaming liquor, an invitation which he

quickly accepted. While he regaled the inner man, the lawyer regarded him closely. He thought he detected something that proclaimed his visitor the "man" he wanted. There lurked evidences of a slyly-iniquitous life about that meek countenance, and the longer cleser Elroy Chase looked, the more he thought he could not be mistaken.

So, when the Yankee emptied the second tumbler of punch, and praised the article Elroy begged him to be seated, remove his hat, umbrella, etc., and to make himself at home generally.

"I suppose, sir, that you seek my professional services," said Elroy Chase, for the purpose of bringing his visitor back to his visit, for under the influence of the punch, he was immortalizing the land of his birth.
"No, sir-ee," said the Yankee, quickly.
"I never git into trouble. Honest men

don't need law. But, you see, as how I read in a stray paper down to the depot that you wanted a 'brave man.' That's the way it read, I b'lieve." The lawyer's eyes flashed with triumph

and he confirmed his visitor's venture with

"Wal, I calkilate as how I'm yer man," continued the Yankee, who had given his name as Uriah Jones. "I'm called a brave man to home. I've whipped everybody within three mile o' Jonesboro', and once I sarved the State in Bosting.

Here he gave Chase a wink, and smiled.
"What! have you been in the penitentiary?" cried the lawyer, surveying the

"That's what they says," was the response. "Yeou see, a lot of us made some money, an' they put us through for it."
"Counterfeitizg!" laughed the Englishman

man.
"Thet's the vulgar name fur makin' money in the woods. But let thet pass, sir. I'm strapped, save a fip my mother gave me for l'arnin' the Commandments, an' I won't part with thet. Yeou want a man; I'm ther chap. I'll do any thing, I don't care what it is.

"Ain't you afraid of the penitentiary?" questioned Elroy Chase, feeling his way.

"No. I've l'arned how tew keep out o'

them since I've been there."

That answer satisfied the Englishman.
"Yes, I want a man," he said; "a brave man, as I said in the paper, and I'll tell you what for." He rose, locked the door, and, returning

to his chair, resumed:
"I've a store up-town that I can't sell, and I must have money to take up some notes that are nearly due. That store is heavily insured—in fact, for more than it is

worth. Do you see?"

"Yas," drawled Uriah Jones. "Yeou want the insurance, an' yeou can't git it until the building goes to pot."

"Just so, and I propose to pay you well for doing the job."

"Well Propose the pay in the propose to pay you well for doing the job."

for doing the job."

"Wal, I've no objection, seeing as how it's an easy way of puttin' money into my wallet," responded Uriah. "Old Ben Franklin said: 'Put money into thy purse;' but he didn't say how. Shouldn't wonder if he filled his wallet by burnin' stores. Do you carry the keys to the buildin'?"

"I carry one; the young clerk that sleeps in the store has the other."

"We mustn't hurn him"

We mustn't burn him.' "Ah! but we must!" almost hissed the

Englishman. "Then yeou two are at loggerheads," ventured Uriah.

"Yes, curse him! I'll tell you how it stands. For six months I've been trying to marry a girl on Eutaw street; but my confounded clerk, who manages the store, took her right away from me, and next week he's going to marry her."
"That would rile me," said the Yankee;

'an' along with the store, death will foreclose the mortgage on-what's his name's

"His name is Shelby Moore."
"But soon he'll be no more," pursued
Uriah, helping himself to another glass of inch. "When do you want the job done?"
"To-morrow night, for the day followpunch. ing witnesses the expiration of my poli-

"Jest so!" ejaculated the Yankee. "But thet young chap might escape if we don't chloroform 'im, an' I propose a kind o' co-operative association, for which I will not

He offered to restore the money he had taken from the widow Johnson, in exchange

for freedom.
"No!" cried the Yankee. "Money is no recompense for the heart-broken sighs you

drew from my poor mother. Go to prison, villain, and there expiate your crimes."

The lawyer did go to the penitentiary, and when he came forth, he was an old man before his time; he had atoned terribly for his circ.

Satisfied with his revenge, Seth Johnson returned to Massachusetts, bearing with him a draft for a handsome sum, from Mr. Monroe. In the Bay State he lived to a ripe age, bequeathing to his posterity an untarnished name, and the story of "Elroy Chase's Man," as related above.

Recollections of the West. The "Major's" Hollow Log.

BY RALPH RINGWOOD.

THE old "Major" was the character of Balltown, and as such was recognized. My earliest recollections are intimately associated with the old white-haired man that sat on the porch sunshiny days, in his great split-bottom arm-chair, and told stories of his early adventures among the Indians to those who would patiently bear the longwinded inflictions.

There was one story the old Indian-fighter told me just before his death, which, by the by, occurred while he was seated in his favorite chair, that made so lasting an impression, that now, after many years, it comes back to me as fresh as though it had

been told me yesterday. It was during the very hight of the Indian war in Kentucky, which gave to that State the name of the "dark and bloody ground," that Edward Thorman settled upon what is now known as Wilson's Creek,

near the present village of Bardston.

The cabin was erected upon a slight elevation near the mouth of the creek where it emptied into the Beech Fork, and comand swam quickly to the other side. Here he emerged, leaving a broad trail in the soft clay, and reaching the hard earth upon top of the bank, he turned and leaped back into the stream, and struck out with great swiftness for the end of the log, which lay partially in the water. This he reached before the savages appeared over the hill, and crawling into the hollow, was, for the time,

at least, safely concealed.

From where he was of course nothing could be seen. He could judge of the move-ments of the savages only by the sounds they made, but these, together with the smell of burning timbers that soon filled the air, told him that his cabin had been fired.

He also heard several of the Indians leap into the water and swim across to where he had emerged, and from the rapidly receding yells uttered by these, he knew that his ruse had succeeded, and that they were searching for him in the dense timber of the bottom-

For more than an hour he lay listening to the whoops of the Indians that were dancing about his burning cabin, and presently he became aware that they must have gotten hold of a small keg of spirits he had cached near by, and were fast getting under the influence of the stimulating draught.

He was not long in doubt in regard to this matter; the savages, as the fiery liquor mounted into their brains, became, as they always do, perfect demons, and went howl ing and screeching back and forth between the burning dwelling and the creek, in whose cool waters they frequently came down to slake their thirst.

Thorman now became satisfied that his chances for escape were good. If the Indians would only keep up their drink until nightfall, he was certain of getting clear.

In the meanwhile the others had come back from a fruitless search in the timber, and having reported, instant search of the immediate neighborhood was instituted.

Here the liquor again stood his friend. Those who had just come in were jealous of the quantity the others were drinking, getting more than their share, and pitched into it with extreordinary endor.

into it with extraordinary ardor These, too, soon became drunk, and then

arose such a perfect pandemonium of sound,



us go down to the store to-morrow night, while I chloroform Moore, you kerosene

the goods. Agreed!" cried Chase, seizing the plan with avidity. "Now, do not fail me, Jones. If we fall, we fall together."
"Never fear for Uriah Jones," was the

assuring response, while a strange twinkle danced in the speaker's eyes.

"Now I will triumph!" said the lawyer. "To-morrow night my accursed rival steps from my path, and, in time, I become the husband of Lena Monroe." A few minutes later the conspirators se-

parated, having agreed to meet at Chase's office the night mentioned above.

Thus was one of the darkest villainies concocted, and the fates seemed propitious

for its consummation.

Elroy Chase hated his clerk and rival with all his heart. By his serpent-like manners he ingratiated himself into the favor of Mr. Monroe, who would readily have accepted him as a member of his family by marriage. But he loved his daughter too well to dictate to her in such delicate matters, and when she informed him that she preferred employee to employer, he smiled ipon her choice, and looked forward, with

joyful anticipation, to the wedding-day The shades of the chosen night found Uriah Jones and the English lawyer preparing for their crime, over bowls of punch. Impatiently they awaited the arrival of midnight, and when it came they left the

An admittance into the store was gained by the genuine keys in Chase's possession, and, leaving the Englishman to kerosene the goods, Uriah Jones glided up the steps that led to Shelby Moore's chamber. ently he returned, with the odor of chloroform about his person, and the lawyer applied a match to a pile of dry-goods, placed in a convenient spot for quickly destroying

the building.
"Come," said Chase, clutching Uriah's arm, as the blaze crept over the fabrics. At that moment several police sprung over the counter, and the Englishman found

nimself in their grasp.

The officers were followed by Shelby Moore, who extinguished the flames, and gazed triumphantly into his employer's face, revealed, in all its ghastliness, by a

dark lantern.
"Traitor!" hissed Chase, throwing a fierce look into Uriah Jones' face. The Yankee laughed.

"This is my revenge!" he cried. "Elroy Chase, do you recollect the poor woman, in Roxbury, whom you, by your undue technicality, robbed of her scanty means? Your face tells me that you have not forgotten it.
I am her son—I, Seth Johnson, not Uriah
Jones. Ha! ha! I calkilate as how
you'll not get Miss Monroe after all!"

Elroy Chase cowered before the avenging

ELROY CHASE'S "MAN. charge so steep for my work. Let both of manded a wide view of the hill and "bot- | that the concealed settler was fain to stop tom" country, as well as a long reach up the

For nearly ten years Thorman lived unmolested, meeting with no trouble from the Indians, or, in fact, from any thing else, save

This was from a violent storm that arose one night, which not only blew the roof from off the cabin, but leveled to the earth a tall old poplar tree that stood in the "front yard" near the bank of the creek, and which, because of its extensive shade, was much prized by the settler.

Thorman mourned the loss of his favorite tree at the time, little thinking of how important a part the huge hollow log that remained, after a winter's firing of the the branches, etc., was to play in the most criti-cal emergency of his life.

As I have intimated, the limbs and "lap," or topmost part of the tree furnished the hunter with firewood during the winter following its fall, so that when summer again came there was nothing remaining but a section some twenty feet in length, which

was hollow throughout its entire length But even this was made of use. (stantly fearing an attack from the savages, Thorman, with that forethought peculiar to men in like positions who have to think and prepare for every thing, made this hollow the receptacle for his powder, of which he usually had several pounds on hand, ball and various other articles very difficult to procure in these far backwoods.

Having make this preparation for emergencies, he continued hunting and trapping as usual, assured that, if the cabin was burned, he would not be left entirely helpless in the wilderness.

The summer passed, and winter was again at hand. Early one cold, crisp morning in the early part of November, the settler stepped out of his door to take the usual look at surroundings, and almost the first thing his eye encountered was a canoe filled with savages just rounding in at the mouth of the creek, their intention evidently be-

ing to visit his cabin. The two saw each other at the same moment, and the savages, uttering their usual yell, quickly ran their light craft against the bank, sprung ashore, and rushed for the beautiful for the same moment. for the house.

The surprise was almost complete, and Thorman saw at a glance that if he attempted flight into the forest, he would be almost certain of capture eventually, as the nature of the country was not well adapted to con-

Such men do not think long, and by the time the prow of the Shawnees' canoe touched the bank, he was out of sight.

Between the Indians and the open space that lay in front of his cabin, and which extended down to the creek, there was a slight elevation, and taking advantage of Thorman made for the water some distance above where the hollow log lay, sprung in, I ges were clustering about the log.

both ears with his hand. The day passed, and still the Indians loitered about the spot, and at length evening

and then night approached. From the sounds of preparation, Thorman soon became convinced that the Shawnees were going to encamp in his "front yard,"

as he termed the clearing, for the night.

This was unlooked for, and, indeed, unusual on the part of the red-skins, but they were probably rendered careless by the whisky, and didn't properly reckon the

But that which Thurman looked upon, at first, as only an inconvenience, he soon found was a real danger.

As the day passed, the charred logs of the cabin had either went entirely out, or else simmered without giving off any heat, and as the cold grew more and more intense, the savages began looking for the most comfortable quarters.

Their eyes at once fell upon the hollow log, and before Thorman had fairly realized the fact, they had a large fire crackling and roaring against its side

Here was a quandary. If he remained he would assuredly catch the benefit of two or three pounds of fine powder, exploding in those close quarters; and if he crawled forth while it was yet twilight, the Indians would be almost certain to discover and tomahawk him.

But he was not allowed much time for reflection.

He could feel the heat through the thin shell, where he lay, and he knew that just beyond where he lay was the powder at a place equally thin. The latter he could not It had been put in from the upper end of the log, and almost midway its length the hollow narrowed down so small as to prevent his crawling entirely through.

As I have said, the log lay slanting on the bank, the lower end being half sub-

merged in the water, which was very deep at this point. As the heat grew more and more intense,

and the noise without grew less as the In-dians became sleepy around and upon the og, by reason of the warmth and whisky, Thorman prepared for the desperate venture. Backing slowly and silently out until his feet touched the water, he paused and lis-

tened. There was no change in the manner or talk of the savages, and feeling that so far he was undetected, he dropped down into the stream, and clinging to the edge of the

log, listened again.

Nothing as yet to cause unusual alarm, and letting go his hold, he floated down the current into the darkness beyond the line

Fifty yards below he struck out for the bank, climbing which, he retraced his steps a little way, got good cover in the under growth, and looked back to where the savaNot only about it, but on it, and over it,

Thurman had not long to wait for the de-novement, but still the time seemed intermi-

More brush had been piled on, and the

log itself was now fairly ablaze; the end could not be far off. Seemingly just at the proper moment, that is when the savages were huddled close up in front, and scrambling for places on top of the log, a bright, glaring flash suddenly shot up on high, a dense volume of white smoke accompanying, instantly followed by a deafening crash that shook the very hills around.

The mine had exploded, scattering death and horrible wounds on every hand.

Before the echoes had ceased, the yells of the dismayed savages filled the air, while the shrieks of scorched and maimed wretches lent additional volume to the sounds.

The destruction was terrible. The powder, confined within the narrow crevice, had exploded with the violence of a great bombexploded with the violence of a great bomb-shell, the huge splinters of seasoned wood acting as would have done the pieces of iron, or the balls and slugs with which these implements of death are charged. Utterly demoralized by the unlooked-for occurrence, and at once attributing it to the

agency of some evil spirit, those of the Indians that could do so, broke and fled in the wildest terror. The canoe was instantly launched, and actually without even looking behind, much less pausing to succor the wounded and dying, the warriors seized their paddles and shot off down the stream

with the rapidity of a race-horse.

After witnessing the catastrophe, Thorman set out for the post on the Rolling Fork, and on the fourth day he, with a

Fork, and on the fourth day he, with a number of others, returned to the scene.

The bodies of eight savages lay just as they had fallen, giving evidence that the survivors had not returned. They were buried in a common grave, and before two days had elapsed, Thorman, with the assistance of his friends, had erected the framework of another cabin, into which he saon moved

oon moved.

The rebuilding of the cabin on the same spot was done with the advice of his friends, who asserted that no Indian would ever at tack, or even approach the place again, and so it really proved, and Thorman lived there for many years, never once being molested as long as he was in the cabin, or about it.

Short Stories from History.

How a Savage Can Die.-That all the virtue of true heroism does not rest with civilized nations we have ample proof in the conduct of the American Indian, when under pain or torture. This instance, related by M. Bossu, a French officer of distinction, who held a command in New Orleans, when Louisiana Territory was a French possession, offers a most fearful contrast between the white captor and the red

captive:
"The tragical death of an Indian of the Collapissa nation," says M. Bossu, "who sacrificed himself for his country and son, I have often admired as displaying the greatest heroism, and placing human nature in the noblest point of view. A Choctaw In-dian having one day expressed himself in the most reproachful terms of the French, and called the Collapissas their dogs and and caned the Conapissas their dogs and their slaves; one of this nation, exasperated at his injurious expressions, laid him dead on the spot. The Choctaws, the most numerous and the most warlike tribe on that continent, immediately flew to arms; they sent deputies to New Orleans, to demand from the French Covernor the head of the from the French Governor the head of the savage who had fled to him for protection: the Governor offered presents as an atonement, but they were rejected with disdain; they threatened to exterminate the whole tribe of the Collapissas. To pacify this fierce nation, and prevent the effusion of blood, it was, at length, found necessary to deliver up the unhappy Indian. The Sieur Ferrand, commander of the German posts on the right of the Mississippi, was charged with this melancholy commission; a rendezvous was in consequence appointed between the settlement of the Collapissas and the German posts, where the mournful ceremony was conducted in the following man-

"The Indian victim, whose name was Tichou Mingo (i. e. servant to the cacique or prince) was produced. He rose up, and agreeably to the custom of these people. harangued the assembly to the following purpose: 'I am a true man—that is to say, I fear not death; but I lament the fate of my wife, and four infant children, whom I leave behind in a very tender age; I lament, too, my father and my mother, whom I have long maintained by hunting; them, however, I recommend to the French, since, on their account, I now fall a sacrifice.

Scarce had he finished this short and pathetic harangue, when the old father, struck with the filial affection of the son, arose, and thus addressed himself audience: 'My son is doomed to death; but he is young and vigorous, and more capable than me to support his mother, his wife, and four infant children; it is necessary, then, that he remain upon earth to protect and provide for them; as for me, who draw toward the end of my career, I have lived long enough; may my son attain to my age, that he may bring up his tender infants; I am no longer good for any thing; a few years more or less, are to me of small moment: I have lived as a man, I will die as a man. I therefore take the place of my son.'
"At these words, which expressed his

paternal love and greatness of soul in the most touching manner, his wife, his son, his daughter-in-law, and the little infants, melted into tears around this brave, this generous old man; he embraced them fo last time, exhorted them to be ever faithful to the French, and to die rather than betray them by any mean treachery unworthy of

"Having thus delivered himself, he presented his head to the kinsmen of the deceased Chactaw; they accepted it; he then extended himself over the trunk of a tree, when, with a hatchet, they severed his head

from his body.
"By this sacrifice all animosities were forgotten: but one part of the ceremony remained still to be performed. The young Indian was obliged to deliver to the Chactaws the head of his father; in taking it up, don me your death, and remember me in the world of spirits.' The French who assisted at this tragedy could not restrain their tears, while they admired the heroic constancy of this venerable old man."